

# SOCCER

VOL. 23 No. 1117 — TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2002



● REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST  
● PUBLICATIONS No. NBQ5726

**WEEKLY**

**\$3.60**  
GST INCLUSIVE

## REMO STEPS INTO SA'S HOT SEAT

By Mark Stavroulakis

**T**agged as being the toughest sporting job in the country, Remo Nogarotto last Saturday afternoon became Soccer Australia's new chairman but amazingly had no one to run against.

Former Perth Glory part owner Paul Afkos was running for chairman alongside Remo however pulled out of the race due to his appointment as an independent board member, thus giving Nogarotto the role of being SA's number one man.

The question however is why wasn't there any other nominees running for chairman?

Surely there could have been a few more candidates who could have run for soccer's top spot but there wasn't.

Nogarotto, a former NSW Liberal Party president has taken over the reins Ian Knop was pulling for the past 16 months.

Known for being one of the toughest years of soccer to date, Knop's time in power alongside SA President Nick Greiner certainly left a blank spot in the minds of many soccer followers in this

country.

Issues that unfortunately had been unheard of a few seasons back reared its ugly head in Australian soccer that left many observers thinking of 'could soccer in this country get any worse'?

Remo will undoubtedly have his work cut out concentrating on a variety of issues currently afoot in the soccer forum.

-Pushing for some much-needed television coverage of the National League

-Organizing a professional and well-run calendar for the Socceroos

-Hoping to land down a major sponsor or sponsors for soccer in this country

-Fixing up SA's finances

-Uniting the game amongst all members of SA

More importantly keeping the game afloat, as it's been quite evident that Soccer Australia could fold next season if no positive steps are taken.

Nogarotto's election was a move that was collectively sanctioned by the existing Board to demonstrate much needed unity with the sport following recent disorderly events.

"I'm humbled by the fact that a



Remo Nogarotto becomes Soccer Australia's third chairman in twenty-one months.

large group of individuals representing all the tiers of soccer in this country have elected me to the role of Chairman of Soccer Australia," said Chairman Remo Nogarotto.

"No one currently on the Board or the stakeholders at the meeting today (last Saturday) are under any illusion about the size of the challenge that confronts the sport at the

present moment, but what has emerged today is a very strong commitment to sail the ship through troubled waters."

Already a week into his appointment as chairman, Remo has already come under the spotlight about SA's future and where it stands with the Australian Sports Commission (SA's remaining

sponsor) stating that if the commission asked for the current SA board to step down, then Nogarotto and his peers would act accordingly.

"We are prepared to work with the sports commission...work through the set of recommendations, then put those recommendations to the stakeholders. If the stakeholders deem it appropriate that the board be collapsed and a fresh apparatus be put in place, then that's what will be done."

This follows the Australian Sports Commission's inquest concerning SA's \$2.5 million debt that will be examined within the next few months.

One major development hoping to swing Australia's way in the next few weeks is the decision as to whether to award Oceania direct passage towards the World Cup in Germany 2006.

No doubt Remo and co will be waiting on hands and knees about this outcome as if FIFA offer a place to Oceania, Frank Farina's squad would surely be in the box seat of claiming a spot in soccer's most prestigious event — something that has yet to be seen in this country since the wonder team of 1974 coached by Rale Rasic.

Qualifying for the World Cup will mean sponsors and TV rights will come the Socceroos way and this could be the right tonic Australian soccer has been looking for all this time.

A quick fix is obviously not the key behind rebuilding the code in this country though less talk and more action is certainly on the minds of many Australian soccer followers who live in hope that the code can kick start itself through its new chapter under Remo Nogarotto.

Having had failed attempts with the Liberal Party, Northern Spirit and the Marconi Stallions in recent years, Nogarotto is hoping for a change of luck — here's hoping for Australian soccer to prosper under new leadership and lets anticipate that Remo does not become yet another Australian soccer official statistic, there's been enough of that.

The current Soccer Australia Board of Commissioners:

Chairman — Remo Nogarotto  
Deputy Chairman — Les Ivory  
Commissioner — Paul Afkos  
Commissioner — Dominic Galati  
Commissioner — Robert Sestan  
Commissioner — Bill Walker

## KINGZ INDULGE IN RECORD WIN

By Daniel Kuziow

**T**he Football Kingz opened round 12 of the National League with a smooth two goals to nil victory over the third placed Newcastle United.

Goals in either half from Paul Urlovic and Patricio Almendra helped their side notch a club record third consecutive win, while the clean sheet kept by Michael Utting was their second in succession—a second club record of the night for the Kingz.

On Saturday night, the Brisbane Strikers picked up their first home win of the season by disposing of the travelling South Melbourne side two goals to one.

It was a less than happy return for South coach and long time Brisbane favourite Danny Wright as goals from Kris Trajanovski and Stuart McLaren gave the Strikers their first taste of home success after 540 minutes of football.

The loss for South meanwhile means they are still without a victory on their travels away from Bob Jane.

Sunday's remaining matches produced a few surprises with only one of top six sides able to register three points against their lower placed opponents.

In the much anticipated showdown between the Melbourne Knights and Perth Glory, it was

the Glory who came away from Melbourne with a comprehensive four goals to one victory.

Missing ace marksman Bobby Despotovski who chose to sit out the match following an incident with the Knights crowd some years back, the headlines were stolen by Damien Mori who chimed in with a brace to silence the 4000 strong crowd.



Power players embracing after their derby win over Sydney United last week.

Anthony Pelikan had given the home side an 18th minute lead but some 10 minutes later another youngster in Nick Mrdja restored parity before strikes from Mori and Brad Hassell kept Mich D'Avary's side close to the summit of the national league.

Parramatta Power entertained local rivals Sydney United and came away with a stirring three goals to nil victory over their neighbours at Parramatta Stadium.

Two goals in the space of two minutes just before half time to Kosta Salapasis and the returning Brad Maloney broke the resistance of Branko Culina's men and Ahmad Elrich rounded off the victory with a late second half goal.

In the day's remaining game fifth placed Adelaide City were humbled by a solitary Naum Sekulovski strike after ten minutes.

It was only Wollongong's third win in the 12 rounds to lift the Wolves to the edge of the top six of a congested table while for the Force the loss was their second in as many weeks that has seen them lose some of their early season momentum.

The Marconi Stallions and Northern Spirit match was postponed due to the Spirit having three players on International duty with the Young Socceroos, while leaders the Olympic Sharks had the bye.

## THOMSON INDUCTED INTO SA HALL OF FAME



Eddie Thomson shows off his award with SA's Hall of Fame chief Ted Simmons and Marconi Coaching Staff of Raul Blanco and Rale Rasic.

**STOP PRESS**

**U20'S  
THROUGH TO  
PLAY-OFFS**

The U20 Australian side capped off a successful two match qualifying series by defeating a hapless

PNG side six-nil to advance to a two-legged series against New Zealand.

Captain Scott McDonald was the hero for the Aussie's notching up a hat-trick while South Melbourne youngster Vince Lia, Marconi Stallions striker Alex Brosque and an own goal secured a play-off birth for the Australian, starting on the 19th of December.



# AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER

WEEKLY

Issue No. 1117

"Published every Tuesday by  
F.L. Press  
118-124 Bourke Rd,  
Alexandria NSW 2015

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**MAILING ADDRESS**  
118-124 Bourke Rd,  
Alexandria NSW 2015

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Overseas: \$255 (GST incl.)

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**Deadline for contributions, articles  
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issue date.**

# AUSSIES ABROAD

BY DANIEL KUZIW

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**R**eady's teenage goal-keeper Jamie Young is in line for a call-up to Australia's Under-23 squad to ward off overtures from England.

Young, a product of the Queensland Academy of Sport in Brisbane, played for England Under-18s in a friendly against Tunisia earlier this year after attracting the attention of England goalkeeping coach Ray Clemence.

Now it looks as if he may be called into the England Under-18 squad for the game against Egypt next month, but Socceroos head coach Frank Farina has been alerted to his talent by agent and former Australia international Andrew Bernal. "The kid wants to play for Australia, pure and simple," said Bernal.

For an in depth analysis of the situation please turn to page 5.

**F**rom the relative obscurity of the German 3rd Division (Regionalliga Sued) comes Christoph Teinert of TSG Hoffenheim.

Although born in Germany, his mother is Australian and he has dual-nationality. Christoph is a striker and has so far scored 13 goals in League and Cup games.

**R**angers defender Craig Moore could be set to see his name entered into the club's 'Hall of Fame,' despite his rollercoaster ride at the club.

The Australia international is one of 50 past and present players who have been nominated by the club, with two from each of the last five decades about to be chosen by fans.

He and current teammate Lorenzo Amoroso are included in a 1990s category that also fea-



**Craig Moore: Nominated for entry into the Rangers' Hall of Fame.**

tures Paul Gascoigne, Mark Hateley and Stuart McCall.

Moore revealed it was a falling out with former coach Dick Advocaat that pushed him forward in his career at Ibrox.

Advocaat hooked Moore after 25 minutes of the first game of the 1999-2000 season in front of 50,000 Rangers fans.

The Aussie explained: "Now I have to thank Dick and say that the fall-out was probably the making of me with Rangers. When I examined his reasons for dragging me off after Kilmarnock had scored against us I decided that the manager was only trying to sharpen me up."

"I had to learn to concentrate for every one of the 90 minutes in each game."

He added, "I had been in and out of the side before Dick arrived at the club and I was being switched from position to position, which didn't please me."

"When Dick was appointed manager he told me that he wanted me to stay at the club. But I was headstrong and left for Crystal Palace before I had realised that I had made a big mistake."

"I had also forgotten what Ally McCoist had once told me

about what it takes to make it at Ibrox. He said the first requirement for any player there was a thick skin."

**A**jax Amsterdam number one Joey Didulica has committed himself to Australia, dismissing reports he is considering representing Croatia.

On the back of playing an integral part in Ajax Amsterdam's historic League and Cup double last season, Didulica was linked to Croatia, but the 25-year-old has confirmed his allegiance to Frank Farina and the Socceroos.

"Ultimately, you have to play international football with your heart. Nothing else should come into it. As proud as I am of my heritage, my heart is with Australia," said Didulica to tribalfutbol.com.

For more info please turn to page 3.

**A**ustralia U20 coach Ange Postecoglou has announced Scott McDonald as the captain of the Young Socceroos for the Oceania World Youth Championship Qualifying tournament.

The 19-year-old Southampton striker has been selected by Postecoglou to lead the team in their group matches in Vanuatu. Perth Glory central defender David Tarka has been named vice-captain.



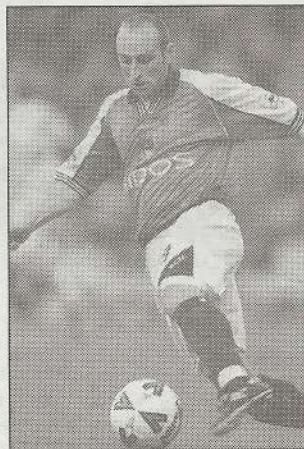
**Scott McDonald: Announced as captain of the Australian U20 side.**

"Scott McDonald is very experienced having some time under his belt in the English Premier League, as well as plenty of international experience going as far back as the 1999 Under-17 World Championship," said Postecoglou.

"Scott is one of key players and he is the kind of guy that leads from the front on the field."

**R**esponding to claims made by Danny Tiatto that he would make himself unavailable for future Socceroo matches because of the current state of Soccer Australia comes the news of his immediate availability.

National coach Frank Farina who earlier this week had spoken to Tiatto declared the apparent rift between the Man City player and SA as being dead and buried with Farina telling The Age, "I spoke to Danny Tiatto last week and he is as keen as mustard to play against England."



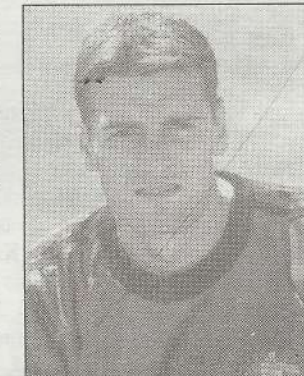
**Danny Tiatto: According to Frank Farina has made himself available for the Australia versus England match.**

**V**icenza have expressed an interest in Perugia goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac.

Spider has struggled to make an impact at the Serie A club since being axed in a controversial move that involved club chief Luciano Gaucci.

Since the early weeks of September, Kalac has been relegated to the club's reserve team after Perugia convinced Sebastiano Rossi to come out of retirement.

Meanwhile the list of interested clubs for the services of Vince Grella continues to grow with AS Roma the latest Italian giant to register their ant for the midfielder.



**Zeljko Kalac: Sparking interest from Italian club Vicenza.**

AC Milan trainer Carlo Ancelotti instructed his board on Monday to find out about Grella's availability, while Juventus GM Luciano Moggi is a confirmed admirer of the Australia U23 international.

Roma are considering Grella as a replacement for the want-away Pep Guardiola and have reportedly offered Empoli a list of young players it can choose in a swap deal.

**A**ussie youngster Scott Paterson is currently with Dundee, after previously being on trial at Chelsea and Charlton Athletic.

The 15-year-old moved to Britain earlier this year from Perth Glory and the Perth SC junior academy.

He started his time in England with Chelsea, where he trained with the Blues' Under-19 side. He did impress Chelsea, but was not offered a permanent deal.

Paterson then tried out with Charlton Athletic, who have a history of looking at young Australian talent. He did not get taken on at The Valley and so in turn moved on to Dundee.

He is currently at Dens Park, but is expected back in Australia in the near future to secure a place in a local side for the 2003 season.

**T**he English FA are set to hand Mark Bosnich an ultimatum over his delays with taking a second drugs test.

The Chelsea goalkeeper's representatives have argued that as he is being treated for depression at a specialist clinic, the delays over his second drugs test should be understandable.

Bosnich allegedly tested positive for cocaine in a routine drugs test last month. Neither the player nor his advisers have denied the positive finding.

Both the FA and Chelsea are frustrated with the delays, with the two tests now set to be over a month apart.

A spokesman for UK Sport, who conduct all drugs tests in Britain, told the Evening Standard: "The standard time between an A and B test is 10-14 days. A month is certainly longer than normal."

"There are reasons why it can take longer. The player and his representatives have a right to be there for the B test, so that can lead to a delay."

"The B sample is frozen immediately after it's taken so there's no chance of it going off."



**Mark Bosnich: Issued an ultimatum to take his second drug test.**

Chelsea have indefinitely suspended Bosnich without pay. If the B test confirms the results of the A sample, the goalkeeper will have his Blues contract terminated for serious misconduct.

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# Young Socceroos vs Vanuatu

**AUSTRALIA** 2  
(Scott McDonald 10', Carl Valeri 22')  
**VANUATU** 0

## AUSTRALIAN LINE-UP:

Nathan Coe (gk), Alex Wilkinson, Daniel Piorkowski (Matthew Osman 80), David Tarka, Carl Valeri, Matthew McKay, Dustin Wells, Vince Lia (Jonathon Richter 56), Scott McDonald (capt), Alex Brosque, Michael Baird (Mark Tsiorlas 62).

Yellow Card: Coe 87'

Crowd: 5,000 approx

**T**he Australian Under 20 National Team (Young Socceroos) have defeated Vanuatu in their crucial opening match of the Oceania World Youth Championship Qualifying tournament in Port Vila, Vanuatu, today.

The Young Socceroos secured a hard-fought 2-0 victory courtesy of first-half goals from captain Scott McDonald and midfielder Carl Valeri.

Coach Ange Postecoglou mindful of the importance of scoring first, fielded an attacking 3-4-3 line-up and was rewarded as early as the tenth minute with a goal

from McDonald. The Southampton striker eased any nerves when he out-paced the defence and finished with a sweetly-struck shot into the roof of the net.

Michael Baird nearly doubled the advantage just two minutes later as Australia poured on the pressure - Baird's volley coming back off the post after good lead-up work down the left side from Alex Brosque.

However the Australians were not to be denied, with Inter Milan-based Carl Valeri scoring with a stunning strike from 25 yards to dampen the enthusiasm of the

noisy 5,000 strong crowd in the Korman Stadium.

The Vanuatu goalkeeper was kept busy throughout the first half with the Australian attacking trio of McDonald, Brosque and Baird continually causing havoc, however, Australian goalkeeper Nathan Coe was only required to make one genuine save in the opening stanza.

The match settled down after the interval as the heat took its toll on the players.

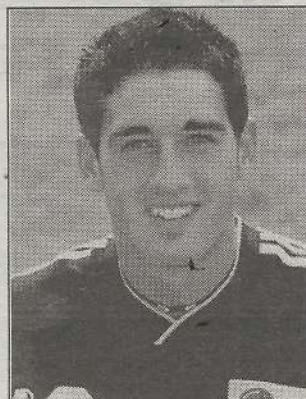
Although Coe was called into action on a number of occasions it was his opposite number in the Vanuatu goal that was by far the

busier of the two goalkeepers with McDonald and substitute Mark Tsiorlas both coming close to extending the Australians advantage before full time.

"I was really pleased with the way the boys went about things today," said Postecoglou.

"They showed no real sign of nerves and started the game particularly well.

We scored two in the first half-hour but it probably could have been a couple more. Overall the guys played particularly well considering the hot conditions and the hard surface."



**Carl Valeri: Scored the all important second goal to give the Young Socceroos victory over Vanuatu.**

## Didulica Commits Himself to Australia

**A**jax Amsterdam number one goalkeeper **Joey Didulica** has committed himself to Australia, dismissing media reports he is considering representing Croatia.

On the back of playing an integral part in Ajax Amsterdam's historic league and cup double last season, Didulica was linked to Croatia, but the 25-year-old has confirmed his allegiance to Frank Farina and the Socceroos.

"Ultimately, you have to play international football with your heart.

Nothing else should come into it. As proud as I am of my heritage, my heart is with Australia," said Didulica.

"I feel I am up to the challenge of playing internationally and if I was selected by Frank Farina in any of his squads, it would be an enormous honour."

Didulica's sterling performances in winning the Dutch domestic double and leading a young Ajax side to a

remarkable run in the UEFA Champions League have combined to propel his name into the international spotlight.



**Joe Didulica has committed himself to the Green and Gold.**

An injury which kept Didulica out of the Sydney Olympics is responsible for triggering a potential tug-of-war.

"I wanted to play for Australia at the Olympics and was shattered to miss out," said Didulica.

"Since then international football is not something I've thought heaps about because I've been so committed to establishing myself at Ajax and helping them in the Champions League. When you do reach a certain level with your club, especially a club like Ajax, it often happens that people begin linking your name to the national side, and that's a real buzz."

"Professionally, playing for a European country can be more convenient because you play so many more high profile games and it allows you to move between clubs, but choosing a country because of that seems a bit ridiculous," said Didulica.

"You can't let those issues determine which country you play for. Geelong is where I was born and grew up and if I'm never selected to play for Australia, I'll still support the Socceroos and hope that we can make it to the World Cup."

## One last NSL try for Melbourne Dragons

**T**he Melbourne Dragons have revived their bid to join the National Soccer League for season 2003-2004.

But having already failed in their attempt to join the NSL before this current season started, the business group behind the Dragons will turn their attention to basketball should the application be again rejected.

Dragons chairman and businessman Bing Liu said he would reapply for an NSL licence before Christmas.



**VSF chairman Manny Galanos is supporting a third Melbourne club.**

Liu has plans to form a consortium comprising Golden Star and Asian business and soccer interests - including Shanghai Football Club - to provide \$2 million to fund the Dragons.

Liu said if granted a licence, the Dragons would share Bob Jane stadium with South Melbourne and aim to sign uncontracted NSL players with three overseas players, one of them Chinese.

But should the Dragons fail to get a licence by next February, Liu will withdraw his attempt to get involved in Australian soccer and switch to basketball.

He and his Golden Star import and export company already have a relationship with the Melbourne Tigers in the NBL.

Liu said his company and overseas interests from Asia were keen to establish a sports club in Melbourne to promote goods and services between the two continents, using soccer as the preferred vehicle ahead of basketball.

"This is our last try," he said.

"We have been working (on a licence) for the last 12

months. Whatever Soccer Australia asks of us we will do it. But if they say no we'll give up and do another thing.

"Soccer is the number one sport in the world, that is why we want the

Melbourne Dragons, but if Soccer Australia won't give us a licence this time we'll go with the Melbourne Tigers basketball club."

South Melbourne presi-

dent Peter Mitrakas recently publicly supported a third NSL club in Melbourne since the demise of the Carlton Soccer Club and Gippsland-based Eastern Pride after the 1999-2000 season.

Victorian Soccer Federation chairman Manny Galanos also favoured a third Melbourne club.



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# Olyroos Tour In Doubt

The continued trouble at Soccer Australia (SA) has placed the Olyroosâ participation in an elite 10-team tournament in Qatar next year in jeopardy.

The Olyroos were due to play in next January's tournament, featuring the likes of Brazil and Germany, but the team may not be funded.

Mark Peters, from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) told Toyota World Sports that there are 'many issues that have to be resolved' before funding is approved for the trip.

The news comes after Tuesday revelation that former Soccer Australia

chairman Ian Knop signed a deal with the ASC earlier this year that helped SA shore up its financial problems.

The deal stated that SA, in return for a \$780,000 cash injection, had to undertake and put into practice any recommendations made by the Crawford inquiry without exception.

If SA didn't undertake the recommendations, the agreement was that SA would have to repay the money in full.



The last Olyroo side shown during the preparations for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

# SA to accept inquiry: SBS

By Mark Stavroulakis

Former Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop reportedly signed an agreement committing the national governing body to fully implement the federal government inquiry's recommendations.

SBS television program World Sport also claimed that SA, which may be trading while insolvent, was set to approach world governing body FIFA for a short-term payment in a bid to keep it financially afloat.

It said SA was chasing an advance of \$700,000 in July from the Australian Sports Commission to fix a short-term cash crisis.

As part of the deal, the ASC demanded undertakings from SA that it accept and implement the inquiry's recommendations.

SBS said that at least two current board members were furious that Knop agreed to the arrangement, which also gives the ASC the power of veto over the appointment of SA's chief executive.

Alan Vessey resigned from the position last

week along with Knop, fellow board member Graeme Bowker and non-voting president Nick Greiner.

They claimed the majority of the board members were anti-reform and opposed to the inquiry, which is due to hand down its report in February.

"On the financial front, Soccer Australia is struggling to remain solvent," SBS said. "The national body is ready to appeal directly to FIFA for an advance of the annual half a million dollar grant."

# Glory to lose points?

Perth Glory face the loss of at least three national soccer league competition points after Soccer Australia claimed the club fielded a player in breach of the organisation's regulations.

The incident dates back to the first round of competition when the Glory played German import Andre Gumprecht in a match against Parramatta Power.

SA alleged that the Glory failed to provide proof of a temporary visa for the gifted midfielder.

If found guilty of the breach by the NSL tribunal, the Glory, who won the match 2-0, will hand over a 3-0 loss and the points to Parramatta.

But the second placed Glory

could face more sanctions including fines and a further loss of points if they are deemed in breach.

Glory chief executive Jeff Dennis said the club would argue vehemently against SA's determination when the NSL tribunal met.

"Andre, with our other players, was issued a security pass before the (first) game and that included a registration number," Dennis said.

"Whether that was sent inadvertently by Soccer Australia or not - we took it as meaning he was registered."

"We believe we acted in the spirit of the competition."

Dennis said the club had pushed SA for several months to resolve the issue.

"We don't accept it (taking this long)," he said.

"We've made several calls to Soccer Australia requesting this issue should be addressed instead of being drawn out."

While Gumprecht, a former player in the German lower leagues, has shone on the field in Australia, it's been a tough few months for him off it.

Gumprecht's wife and child contracted meningococcal disease in October, the pair later being released from hospital after doctors had said his partner was close to death.

A date for the tribunal hearing has not been set.



Perth Glory's German import Andre Gumprecht.

# Vaunted Vidmar Now A Veteran

By Allan Crisp

When a footballer attains the ripe "old" age of 35 he or she is immediately classified as a veteran.

The dictionary definition of the word veteran reads, "an experienced person." That description certainly fits Aurelio Vidmar, who at 35 is the elder brother of the famous Adelaide soccer playing siblings, Aurelio and Tony.

"When you top the 30 mark you are immediately branded as a veteran and while I may be a year to year proposition at this stage, I'm hoping to continue to play for a little while yet, provided, fingers crossed, I stay free of injury," Aurelio said.

When the inevitable day arrives for him to hang the boots on the retirement hook, Vidmar may still need that equipment because his aim is to turn to coaching.

"I did my senior coaching license exam with Carl Veart and I intend to have further studies later," the skilful midfielder said.

The major factors contributing to Vidmar's longevity as a player are his intense dedication in maintaining fitness and his unwavering professionalism.

When his return to Adelaide City Force was delayed in a tangle of red tape Vidmar gained the services of a personal trainer, Nick Hagicosas, a move that compensated for missing pre-season training.

Vidmar gives praise also to City fitness coach Peter Janicki, a man who he says, "Really knows his stuff."

In his younger days, Vidmar the elder was distinctly different to Tony in appearance. Aurelio was the long-haired one, while Tony preferred the short back and sides version.

That fact moved renowned Sydney scribe Michael Cockrell to write, "In Europe hes (Aurelio) the \$9 million man. In Australia, only the barbers look twice."

The reference highlighted that

Aurelio Vidmar was a household name overseas while in his home country the recognition was scant.

He cut his soccer teeth at the Flinders Park Primary School and then the Underdale High School before joining the then junior club Woodville SC at the age of 10.

Adelaide City's first NSL championship success in 1986 was etched as his first major scalp in the world game, but few realised just how many more glories were to follow.

Aurelio figured in the historic World Cup qualification 1-1 draw with Argentina at the Sydney Football Stadium when he accepted a cross from Tony to score the Socceroo goal that kept the nations hopes alive.

The 12th minute strike sent the



Aurelio Vidmar: One of Adelaide City Force's finest stars ever to pull on the black and white jersey.

record crowd of 43,967 into delirium until a 37th minute goal initiated by Diego Maradona and scored by Abel Balbo squared the ledger.

A 1-0 victory by Argentina through a Gabriel Batistuta shot that deflected off Alex Tobin at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires put paid to that Australian dream.

Vidmar began his overseas learning curve with four years in Belgium playing for KV Kortrijk, SV Waregem and Standard Liege.

It was with the latter club that he netted 22 goals in his first season to finish top scorer and join fellow Australians Frank Farina and Eddie Krnoevic in achieving that honour.

The \$9 million dollar tag was pinned on him by Italian sports magazine Guerin Sportivo which also ranked him among the top 100 players in the world.

Vidmar joined many other notable Aussie players when he was voted the Oceania Footballer of the Year.

Dutch football beckoned as he signed for Feyenoord, while spells with Swiss club Sion and Spanish club Tenerife followed before he succumbed to an offer from Eddie Thomson to join Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

His international career was highlighted by six appearances wearing the captains armband, a feat of which he is immensely proud.

Aurelio is proud too of his little (big) brother Tony and pleased that he is doing well with English Premier League club Middlesbrough.

Adding to the sporting flavour, Aurelio married into one of South Australia's best-known netball families when he took Sarah Angove as his bride.

Sarah is a State player with the Conrax netball club, while her mother Marg is the team coach.

Does infant daughter Gabriella share her parents sporting instincts? "Well, she's already a real tomboy," Vidmar reports.

# Okon backs Bozza

Socceroos captain Paul Okon has expressed strong support for his good friend Mark Bosnich, blasting Premier League club Chelsea for not backing their goalkeeper.

Bosnich has been suspended without pay by Chelsea and is reportedly in a London clinic suffering clinical depression after returning a positive test to cocaine last month.

Okon, who rose through junior soccer ranks with Bosnich, told The Australian that he thinks there is "something very suspicious about the whole affair".

"I don't know what to make of all of this," Okon told the national newspaper.

"It seems a very strange situation ... very suspicious ... as far as I am concerned."

"I've known Mark since we were

11 and our careers have almost followed similar paths," said Okon, who came through Marconi juniors with Bosnich and now plays at Leeds with fellow high-profile Aussies Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell.

"I like to think I know him very well and I just can't see him being involved in drugs."

Okon is amazed that Chelsea has not stood by Bosnich, who has hardly played a game for the club over the past 18 months.

"Aren't you supposed to be innocent until proven guilty?" Okon asked. "I can't believe that Chelsea have acted the way they have."

"I remember years ago when Paul Merson and Tony Adams had problems with gambling and excessive drinking yet their club (Arsenal) stood by them."

Okon says he has been unable to



Paul Okon has backed Chelsea custodian Mark Bosnich.

get in touch with Bosnich as he has changed his mobile phone number and is keeping out of sight.

"The last time I saw him in person was about six weeks ago and he seemed fine to me," Okon added.

# Signed & Sealed

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA, the historic soccer international set down for next February in London, will be seen LIVE AND EXCLUSIVELY on SBS.

This will give Australian audiences the chance to watch England stars David Beckham and Michael Owen line up against the Socceroos.

SBS won the rights to the broadcast after two weeks of intense negotiations with the English FA's official television agency, Octagon-CSI, and after fighting off rival bids from two other networks. The game, on February 12 at London's Upton Park, represents the first time the Australian national soccer team will have been hosted by England, despite the century old traditional rivalry between the two nations in other sports.

"It's always a thrill to be part of a broadcast involving the

Socceroos," said SBS Head of Sport, Les Murray.

"But this is special. Not only is it the first game to be played by our first choice eleven since the World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay last year, but it's an historic chance for the Aussies to have a go at the old enemy on its own soil."

The game is part of a package rights deal with Octagon-CSI, which will bring to SBS a broad catalogue of FA properties, including the FA Cup quarter finals, semi finals and final, as well as all of England's home friendly internationals for the next two years.

"We are grateful to Octagon-CSI for choosing SBS as their Australian television partner on these properties," Murray added.

SBS plans to screen the England v Australia match LIVE on the morning of February 13, 2003 with a replay in prime viewing time that evening.

# 'MITCH' Backs Holman

Feyenoord striker Brett Holman insists he hasn't snubbed Australia after turning down an invitation to the U20 World Cup qualifying squad.

Currently a regular on-loan with Excelsior, the 18 year-old decided against joining Australia's U20 squad for their World Cup qualifiers in Vanuatu this week.

But Feyenoord's Oceania chief, Dave Mitchell, told the Daily Telegraph, "What people have to understand is that Brett is playing senior football at the highest level."

"He was honoured that he was chosen to play (for the Young Socceroos) but he can't put his future in jeopardy."

Mitchell says Holman has retired from international football at youth level.



# Hill wants SA, NSL axed

Former Soccer Australia (SA) chairman David Hill has called for SA and the National Soccer League to be scrapped and slammed the existing stakeholders and NSL clubs for failing to put the good of the game first ahead of their own interests.

Speaking on SBS' The World Game show, Hill went on to admit that during his tenure as SA chairman, he would have been better axing the league and starting again than trying to reform it.

"The mistake (former board member) George Negus and I made was that we went about improving soccer in Australia when we should have shut down and started again," Hill said.

"We've got to face it, Soccer Australia is now in ruin. Soccer Australia is now incapable of solving its own problems."

"I think we're all hoping that (David) Crawford is going to recommend the closing down of Soccer Australia as we know it. And we start afresh with a more representative organisation for Australian soccer."

Hill is in no doubt as to who is to blame for the current state of the game and even with Sydney Olympic CEO Peter Raskopoulos sitting beside him, Hill lashed out at the existing stakeholders and NSL clubs for failing to represent the true desires of the fans.

"That's the problem that Soccer Australia, all the bickering and squabbling and fighting is not new," he said.

"Every chairman of Soccer Australia is constantly looking over his shoulder to make sure you haven't offended the vested interest of the voting stakeholders."

"This is a fundamental point that I hope Crawford deals with in his report. Those 61 votes, largely the state and territory federations and the NSL clubs are not representative of the hundreds of thousands of people playing soccer in Australia."

Hill pinpointed the power wielded by the three NSW state soccer federations as a prime example of where things have gone wrong.

"In New South Wales you have the ridiculous situation (where) there are three soccer federations who are voting stakeholders in Soccer Australia," he explained.

"The NSW Soccer Federation has six votes and probably represents 10,000 soccer players in NSW. The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, which gets one vote, has about 100,000 players registered with it so you've got this lack of representation in the structure."

Hill also expressed qualified support for the Professional Footballers Associations' plans for a new Australian Premier League.

"Where he (PFA chief Brendan Schwab) is right is that the current national league is in its death throws, it's a ruin like all of Soccer Australia and you now have no choice but to scrap it and start again."

Raskopoulos was keen to defend the NSL clubs, insisted the PFA's model was ultimately flawed.

"Some of the reform models we've seen as clubs are just impossible, it just won't happen," Raskopolous said. "There won't be one club that can reach that bar."

"At the end of the day, you've got private investors that are putting in between \$1million and \$2million out of their own money. The new reformed model they're talking about putting in four and five million dollars of their own money."

Raskopolous is keen to see reform of the NSL fast-tracked for next season and hopes the clubs are successful in their bid for autonomy and an independent league.



Former Soccer Australia chairman David Hill has called for SA and the NSL to be scrapped.

"We'd like to fast track it (reform) as soon as possible," he said. "We know that the league is not working great as a whole."

"The sad fact about it is that we know the names of the board directors of Soccer Australia, but if you ask people out there who captains the Olympic Sharks they'll probably be struggling to tell you."

"What we need to do is, as a group, get control of the league and if we fail we can look at ourselves."

Hill disagreed: "These attempts at marginal reform did not work because the league, fundamentally does not work."

"When it comes to the crunch, the incumbent clubs will vote for self-interest, self preservation and oppose reform."

# AUSTRALIA SET TO LOSE YOUNG STARS?

By Mark Stavroulakis

**Y**oung promising Australian stars Jaime Young and James Wesolowski are on the brim of representing England and other countries as Australian officials had failed to contact the pair for a chance to strut their stuff for the green and gold.

Young, a 17-year-old custodian for English First Division club Reading is believed to be one of the hottest shot-stoppers going around England and has already played a match for the U18 Lions in a friendly hit-out against Tunisia last month.

The former QAS star signed a short-deal with Reading's Academy squad however the club is waiting on hands and knees for the youngster to secure a professional deal once he turns eighteen.

He has already alerted interests from Spanish giants Real Madrid and Serie A big guns Inter Milan through his good performances under the sticks.

Jaime's manager and former Socceroo Andrew Bernal of the SFX Group has stated that this kid has what it takes to go all the way and feels as though the attention of not only England but Scotland wanting the youngster speaks highly of how good this youngster really is.

"English Legend Ray Clemence has stated that this kid is going to be the next big thing. It's a shame that nothing's been seen on this end for a possible call-up to the U20 squad this year. Jaime stated to me that he wants to pull on the green and gold jersey, however was upset about being overlooked by the U20 coach."

With strong offers from England's quarter, they've got an U18 tournament in Egypt next month and his name has been mentioned as a squad member. If nothing comes from Australia what's Jaime supposed to do? Obviously playing for England would be the option."

Bernal, who has played well over 350 games in Europe and having been capped 22 times for Australia believes Australia needs to have scouts on the look out for potential players having Australian passports overseas.

"I want to know why there isn't any Australian scouts watching potential Aussie talent in Europe? There are many youngsters who have Australian passports overseas however we never hear about them and when we do, chances are someone has beaten us to it."

For example, if an Italian youngster is playing his trade in England, one thing's for sure the Italian scouts would be there with bells on monitoring the kid's success if he was a player to watch out for."

The Reading star's dreams however have not gone unheard as current Olyroo and Socceroo coach Frank Farina has stated that he could give the Queensland raised custodian a spot in his side come January in a 10-team tournament held in Qatar.

Another youngster by the name of James Wesolowski, a former Northern Spirit product, could also follow that of Central Coast born Jaime McMaster's path of playing for the Lions as the 16-year-old has grabbed rave reviews in England.

Currently playing for Leicester City's U17 squad, Wesolowski has alerted both English and Polish

officials (Father's origin) in representing their respective nations at U17 level.

Wesolowski is currently open for a possible spot in Ange Postecoglou's U17 Joeys squad bound for hopeful Finland next year however nothing has been seen of whether the crafty midfielder would be given the chance of representing Australia.

Bernal believes that keeping players such as Young, Wesolowski and a host of other up and comers will only benefit the country and promote a better name for the code in this country.

"As an agent I want to see this country thrive with good youngsters playing for Australia in the future."

Progressing to the highest level is what we want to achieve here but if we ignore players who want to play for the country and are of high-quality, then other countries will thrive on our missed opportunities. I guess we will only learn the hard way."



Australian born stars Jaime Young & James Wesolowski (above) are being courted by rival National Teams.

# FARAH COURTED BY LEBANON

By Mark Stavroulakis

**H**aving already represented the National Team of Lebanon nine times in his career so far, Wollongong Wolves star Buddy Farah has once again attained interest from Lebanon's French coach to participate in the Arab Games to be held in Kuwait at the end of this month.

Farah, 24, is currently weighing up his options as to whether he should make the trek to the Middle East mid-way through the National League season.

"I love my club football and I know that at the moment the Wolves are my first priority as I do not want to let my team, coach or fans down. I'm going to discuss it with the Wolves coaching staff and see whether or not they're happy for me to stay or go for the 3 or so weeks."

The Arab Games is certainly

no pushover competition as the Middle-Eastern and Asian countries have certainly raised the bar in the international scene.

"Asian football has really taken off since the World Cup in Korea/Japan. You can assume that the standard is very competitive over there. We (Lebanon) have a lot of foreign coaches over there with high profiles that help bolster the league, as the money is quite good. The standard of football in Lebanon is certainly better than the National League and I also think that a full strength Lebanese squad would give the Socceroos a good run for their money."

The outlet of playing in such a competition means good exposure for Farah who hopes that maybe an overseas offer could swing his way.

"Playing for Lebanon is good for me as it gives me more exposure in the footballing world outside Australia. I'd be stupid not to have played for them con-

sidering the current circumstances involving soccer in this country, as there is no incentive here. In short, I've got a family to look after and at the end of the day you've got to look out for number one. Last week I saw that Joey Didulica has been



Buddy Farah

approached by Croatia. I know Joey real well and I think when an opportunity like that comes your way you should take it, this surely is a sign from God."

Buddy is only one of three players currently playing in the National League who have Lebanese decent.

Parramatta Power's exciting winger Ahmad Elrich and Wolves defender Robbie Slater both share a Lebanese background.

The former Olympic team-member has had a rather sound year with the Wolves to date but believes that this season has been a rebuilding one, which will only get better as time wears on.

"At the start of the season the side knew that this year was all about rebuilding the team up once more. The squad had a number of new faces and many have noticed a lot of youngsters stepping up to top-flight football in this country. We're still hop-

ing for a top six finish come end of the season."

Coming off contract at the end of the year, Farah is weighing up his options on whether to stay in Australia or hopefully get a call from a European club.

"If an opportunity comes up overseas then I'll certainly think about but if there is going to be a reform next year I wouldn't mind staying here developing the game."

Away from football Farah helps out his local Lebanese community and deals with young kids pushing them in the right directions in life.

"I do a lot of work with the Lebanese community in particular helping the kids stay off the streets. Especially with the recent rise in the media of the Lebanese people being stereotyped as the bad guys, I do what I can in helping the community out in a good way."



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# National League Round 12 Reports



**Brisbane Strikers**

**2**



**South Melbourne**

**1**

By Glenn Davis

**B**risbane Strikers ended a horror five match losing streak at home with an upset 2-1 win over South Melbourne at Ballymore on Saturday night.

The Strikers looked like clinging to a 1-all draw after being bombarded by South Melbourne until skipper Stu McLaren scored the late winner against the run of play in the 80th minute.

South Melbourne had control of the game for lengthy periods but was unable to break down a resolute Strikers' defence, which was superbly marshalled by McLaren.

The Strikers took a surprise 1-0 lead at halftime after 300 game veteran Kris Trajanovski

chipped the ball delicately through outstretched arms of South Melbourne keeper Eugene Galekovic.

Brisbane had the better of play throughout the first half and had several more chances to score to give the small crowd plenty of reason to cheer.

However the momentum swung in the second half as South Melbourne took control.

New Zealand international Vaughan Coveney found the back of the net in the 53rd minute after excellent lead up work by Peter Buljan who was a constant menace down the right wing for the visitors.

South Melbourne continued to create chances throughout the second stanza but in a rare trip into the opposition's half, McLaren was able to give the

last placed Strikers their second win of the season.

A cross from Brazilian Fernando Rech found replacement Lawrence Drake whose shot was deflected by Galekovic.

McLaren pounced on the loose ball to slot home the winner, however, the Strikers had to absorb ten minutes of sustained pressure from South Melbourne who were desperate for an equaliser.

Brisbane coach John Kosmina was delighted with the victory while rival Danny Wright, a long serving former Strikers player, was left lamenting.

"Tonight we were resolute and I was really pleased with the way they battled," Kosmina said.

"We could have won the last

couple of games at home by three or four goals but we just did not have the luck.

"But I couldn't be more pleased with the way we battled tonight."

Wright, who started with midfielder Zjelko Susa after he finally was cleared from Croatian club Hajduk Split midweek, paid tribute to the Strikers' defence but left in no doubt which side should have won.

"We had 75 per cent of possession and with that much ball you'd expect to win," Wright said.

"It was a tough game and we have to work hard for our chances and credit goes to the Strikers for that.

"They got behind the ball on every occasion."

Although Souths dropped three points, Wright believes many wins are just around the corner for the Victorians.

"If we keep playing like that we'll win more games than we lose."



Kris Trajanovski celebrating Brisbane's first goal as the Strikers defeated South Melbourne two-one but more importantly collected its first victory at home this season.



**Football Kingz**

**2**



**Newcastle United**

**0**

By Stuart Jones

**T**he success of the new look Football Kingz continued over the weekends with their impressive two-nil victory over title chasers Newcastle United.

It was the Kingz' third consecutive victory and was the second successive match that the team had not conceded a goal, creating a two-pronged record for much maligned New Zealand side.

The Kingz' search for an early goal was rewarded in the ninth minute when Raf de Gregorio played the ball in, Patricio Almendra provided a deft back-heel and Paul Urlovic the finish.

It was best constructed goal the Kingz have scored this season, with Urlovic doubling his season's tally with a clinical left-foot shot which had goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame scrambling with little hope.

However this seemed to spur the visitors into action, as they dominated possession and the front pairing of Joel Griffiths and Esala Masi was causing the Kingz defence all sorts of problems. No doubt though, the signs for Ian Crook and his team were not good as they continually let the Kingz off the hook with wasteful finishing.

With the chances going begging, Patricio Almendra was finally starting to insert his influence and the last 10-15 minutes of the first half, the home side could have easily extended their lead at the half time.

After the break, it was

Newcastle who came out all fired up controlling the play, with the Kingz content to wait and hit on the break, which they did with some effect. On two occasions United keeper Daniel Beltrame saved one-on-one attempts from firstly Vlahos and then Urlovic.



Paul Urlovic: Opened the scoring for the Kingz as they downed Newcastle United by two goals.

With United becoming more and more frustrated at not being able to turn possession into goals, the killer blow arrived in the 65th minute with Urlovic this time the provider. He was able to skip down the left and his pinpoint cross found Almendra, who chested the ball down and half-volleyed his shot past Beltrame.

Newcastle pressed for the final 20 minutes, but never really troubled Mike Utting in the Kingz goal.



**Wollongong Wolves**

**1**



**Adelaide City Force**

**0**

By Otto Bader

**I**n front of 2683 spectators the Wollongong Wolves fought hard to secure the three valuable points against the highly fancied Adelaide City Force.

Their last home game was on the 10th November, nearly a month ago thus the crowd was not too bad even for a Sunday night match. Unfortunately the Wolves now have another two away games before they play again at WIN Stadium.

Coach Ron Corry stated before the match that a win was needed to move up the National League ladder while he was satisfied with the move to have Alex Castro playing up front to support Stuart Young and Naum Sekulovski.

The all important goal came in the 8th minute from a high ball in the area which was not dealt with by young custodian David Searcella, and after bouncing in the goal area Naum Sekulovski found the net. At that stage the Wolves played reasonably well and worked out a few half-chances.

Adelaide came back strongly but missed a great opportunity when Aurelio Vidmar found himself one-on-one with Andrew Crews, however was unable to convert.

The visitors had a lot of territory and ball possession and can consider themselves unlucky not to get a point out of the match. However saying that the Wolves defended with great strength, throwing their body on the line -

Shane Lyons was hit again but this time in the mid-body and recovered to last the whole game. Defenders David Cervinski, Robert Stanton and Buddy Farah did well while youngster Daniel Aliffi looked completely committed. Stuart Young up front was well marked and still had a few

chances which could have counted.

In the second half Adelaide had more of the game, but the Wolves held firm though under pressure. On the fast break they could have embarrassed the Adelaide defence which at times looked rather stagnant.

In summary it was a tough workman-like performance by both teams but the home side was just a bit tougher and deservedly grabbed the points in the end.



Wolves talented twenty-year-old star Naum Sekulovski was the sole goal-scorer for Wollongong in their one-nil victory over the Adelaide City Force.





# National League Round 12 Reports



**Perth Glory**



**Melbourne Knights**

By Alan Clark

**P**erth Glory returned to Melbourne Knights' Somers Street ground for the first time in two years, winning four-one in a more tightly contested game than the scoreboard indicated, helping Glory gain some breathing space at the top of the Ladder with Olympic Sharks.

The principal difference between the sides was the deadly way in which Glory finished its chances. Nick Mrdja, Damian Mori with two, and Brad Hassell each buried their chances to race clear after Anthony Pelikan had opened the scoring for Knights from the penalty-spot.

Glory goalkeeper Jason Petkovic had saved a second spot-kick from Pelikan just after the hour when the game's balance may well have swayed back to Knights.

"I thought it was a good entertaining game," said Glory coach Mitch d'Avray after the match. "It could have been seven-five - good for the paying customer - not always good the coach."

Knights' coach Andrew Marth was naturally disappointed with the outcome, if not the endeavour. "I thought we created enough chances to get a result or thereabouts," he said. "It was just the quality of the finishing where I believe we're still behind. I wasn't disappointed in the way we played - just (dis-

appointed) in the final third again."

After a balanced opening quarter-hour, Scott Miller gave away the penalty that brought the game's first goal. Pelikan had received a ball inside the area and with his back to goal and Miller behind, tantalised the Glory defender and drawing an injudicious challenge which felled him.

Pelikan took the spot-kick, sending Petkovic the wrong way.

Andrew Gumprecht had a chance to bring Glory back into the match when he latched on to a poor punch from Knights' goalkeeper Martin John and volleyed from 25 metres low to the far-post. The ball whistled past the diving John, but Daniel Vasilevski was able to clear from the line.

But Glory equalised just before the half-hour in a rapier move down the left. Mrdja received a ball from mid-pitch and ran at Rodrigo Vargas, wrong-footing him as he came the inside route, and setting up a right-foot shot which comprehensively beat John.

Glory extended the lead within five minutes again after a move down the left. Gary Faria took advantage of a miscalculation by Vargas who assumed a ball was Faria's when its possession was very much in the balance. Faria then played a quick pass up the line to Mrdja who in turn passed inside for Mori, now running into the area.

From this distance and in such situations, backing Mori would be the surer bet, and so

it proved as he netted his eighth goal of the season.

The Knights did not let this reverse put a halt to its adventurous play, and twice before the break looked sure to level. The better chance came after good work on the right



Perth's Edgar Aldrichi wins the aerial battle against Knights rising young star Anthony Pelikan.

near the bye-line by Nick Sabljak who held possession until he saw a crossing opportunity. His cross-found Uruguayan import Gustavo Biscayzacu who despite his diminutive stature, won a header at the far post sending the ball to Leon Buhic at the six-yard line. With the Glory defence completely at sea, Buhic's flying header went over the bar.

But Glory went further ahead in the last minute of the first-half when again Mori and Mrdja combined to productive effect. Mori took possession up the right, and then ran square across the ground, setting up some space for Mrdja with a back-heel as he drew the defence. Mrdja sent forward a short pass to Hassell who chipped John from 25 metres.

Marth replaced Buhic for Henry Fa'arodo at the break. The Solomon Islander came into immediate action and almost brought Knights back into the match in the early moments of the second-half. His left-foot hammered shot from just inside the area required a save of excellence from Petkovic to turn it around the post.

"Henry is a keen young boy," said Marth. "He should be able to (be instantly effective)."

If the Glory thought that was a good intervention by Petkovic, the giant keeper outdid that by diverting Knights' second penalty, awarded on the recommendation of the grandstand side assistant, after Vasilevski's cross from the right was handled by Michael Garcia. Pelikan stepped up to attempt to reprise his first-half spot-kick. Petkovic dived to his left to deflect the ball away from goal.

"If the penalty (went) in - we all know it's a different game," said d'Avray.

Marth went for broke, substituting defend-



Nick Mrdja tore the Knights to shreds with a terrific individual performance.

er Vargas for Xhezair Sulemani, opening the game up even further as a consequence.

With chances opening up for both sides the only surprise was that just one more goal eventuated from the many created. Mori outran two defenders from the half-way line onto a ball and put it past John from 12 metres with just ten minutes remaining, and causing as mass exodus of the home support.



**Parramatta Power**



**Sydney United**

By Peter Damalas

**I**n the local derby at Parramatta Stadium, the home side secured a crucial 3-0 victory over neighbours Sydney United.

For Parramatta, the floodgates opened at the end of the first half with two goals in three minutes to give Branko Culina's men an enormous task for the second period. Ahmad Elrich sealed the win with fifteen minutes remaining, effectively ending the match as a contest.

With an NSL tribunal hearing coming up, and the possible bonus of three extra points, the Power's fortunes finally look like turning in their favour after an uncertain start to the 2002-2003 season. Currently placed on the ladder with twelve points, Parramatta could jump into the top six for the first time this campaign after Perth Glory allegedly fielded an unregistered player, Andre Gumprecht, in their encounter in the first round.

The home side were without three strikers for Sunday's game. Pablo Cardozo, Royce Brownlie and John Buonavoglia were absent due to a combination of injuries and suspension.

Playing up front with former Young Socceroo, Kosta Salapasis, was utility Ray Younis. The partnership was lively and entertaining early on.

A defensive mix-up in the United penalty box almost pre-

sented Parramatta with the opening goal after just two minutes as captain Mark Rudan sliced the ball past his own 'keeper and wide of the post.

The first half was littered with poor first touches and inaccurate distribution. Both teams concentrated their efforts in the middle of the park, with few moves com-

ing from wide positions. Sydney United offered very little in attack, and Jon Angelucci was substituted at half-time.



Bozidar Cacic shown tussling with Power stars Matthew Langdon and Wayne O'Sullivan.

Parramatta were very much in

breakdown in the box, again involving Rudan and Vanja Ivesa.

After some good work by Elrich, journeyman defender Mark Rudan headed the ball

when the goalkeeper was in a good position to claim. Left midfielder Brendan Renaud found himself in a position to cross to Salapasis who headed past Ivesa on the near post to make the score 1-0.

Made famous for his four goal haul which single handedly defeated future champions, Argentina in the World Youth Championships of 1997, Salapasis was instrumental in all three goals. His contribution was a positive sign for Nick Theodorakopoulos as he must deal with the absence of a number of key players.

Matters went from bad to worse for the away team, and Brad Maloney, who has played very little this season, doubled the score with an easy finish when he was put through over a static defence.

Coach Branko Culina opted for a change in direction and replaced Angelucci with the quicker Commins Menapi, and the out of sorts Gabriel Mendez with club captain, Paul Bilokapic.

However, this did little to stem the tide as the Power played with greater freedom and speed up front. Coach Theodorakopoulos must take credit for the way he altered his attacking system and brought danger man, Ahmad Elrich into the game. Playing a more central role from his accustomed position at right wing, Elrich ran rings around Sydney's central defensive partnership, and was engaged in a shooting duel with 'keeper Ivesa.

The 21 year old wrapped up proceedings in the 75th minute with a simple tap in after being set up by his strike partner.

The second period was a vast



Back in top form - Power's Brad Maloney shown scoring Parramatta's second goal in their three-nil win over rivals Sydney United last week.

improvement on the first and thoroughly entertained a crowd of 3,000 spectators.

For Sydney United, Ante Deur displayed confidence on the left and was useful in the team's attacking moves. Midfielder Nahuel Arrarte toiled hard in the ball-winning role, while ex-Parramatta player Brendon Santalab came closest with two strikes on goal.

Substitute Matt Thompson was inches away from producing a 4-0 scoreline when his shot flew over the crossbar in stoppage time.

As Parramatta Power face difficult times ahead with news that the club is effectively for sale, supporters can live in hope that

the on field performances are heading in the right direction.

With a good win this week, and the possible bonus of three more points, things are suddenly looking good for the Power.

The match between the Marconi Stallions & Northern Spirit will be played on later date due to the trio of Spirit players currently playing in the Australian U20 squad. The Spirit will also reschedule their matches against Parramatta Power (R13) & and the Football Kingz (R14).



# VICTORIAN CHRONICLES



By Brendon Davis

## SOUTH TO SHOW A PROFIT

South Melbourne were furious with "reckless reporting" in the Melbourne media which said the Lakeside Club would dip further into the red this financial year.

South will, in fact, be the only NSL Club likely to show a trading profit for the season, with NSL Clubs collectively likely to lose \$16,000,000 for the season. Parramatta Power has announced a \$2m forecast loss with several other NSW based clubs likely to record similar deficits.

"We'll finish the year with a surplus of around \$300,000 which will reduce our debt by this amount" Vice President Nick Maikousis told ABSW. "All South sponsors are up, the gate is well ahead of budget, the coteries have been a phenomenal success and membership has been ok".

"And merchandising has been showing healthy returns grossing over \$5,000 each week, and was expanding the range too" Maikousis said.

He rubbished the comment made by a News Corporation publication which said coach Danny Wright would be forced to sell or release Patrick Kisnorbo in January as a direct consequence of financial constraints.

## KNIGHTS FURY OVER DESPOTOVSKI

No one player should be able to dictate the ground security or any other facet of match day procedures accord-

ing to the Knights management hence their refusal to vary their successful ground security.

The Knights, and many other soccer officials were surprised and disappointed with the Perth strikers very public demands for special security. And many involved at Sommers Street emphasised the trouble emanated from Despotovski racial signals which are deeply offensive to Croats, a sector of the community providing most of the Knights support base.

Since contracting out ground security all matches at Sommers Street



Bobby Despotovski did not make the trip to Melbourne last week

have been incident free with the club having banned known troublemakers from their games.

Infact the Knights are believed to have demanded the NSL caution Despotovski against inciting the crowd at any stage "prior to, during or after" the Glory's visit to Sommers Street. After the blaze of publicity, Despotovski has "decided" against making the trip although cynics will raise the fact he has been relegated to fringe player status at Perth this season.

## BULJAN DOES IT ALL

Peter Buljan has attracted much publicity this year being one half of South Melbourne's dynamic striking partnership, with BAIRD.

But the big fellow has been a major contributor to many changes at South Melbourne this season.



Peter Buljan: South Melbourne's Handy Man.

He has successfully spent much time phoning up former club members asking them to renew their membership. Then he's shown his prowess with a paintbrush, painting the 16 new corporate boxes and the new media box at Bob Jane.

He's been involved in numerous clinics and critically, he's contributed significantly on the park in the most important fashion, putting the ball in the back of the net with regularity.

Not finished, while suspended last week, he entertained sponsors at the Presidents Lunch, was the guest speaker at the lunch then assisted his teammates with their pre-game preparation.

## THEODORAKOPOULOS FURY

Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos used his post match press conference to take a swipe at the Power hierarchy and the media over the Clubs announcement they will withdraw from the NSL at the end of next season unless they can sell the club (without a license) to an overseas club. He told reporters in response to a query from ABSW the announcement (to withdraw) made it harder for the players to prepare and was shattering for players coming out of contract this season. The former championship coach then expressed anger that the media would focus on such an important matter rather than the on-field performances. Ironically Theodorakopoulos then raised the boards announcement as a contributing factor



Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

to his teams loss to South Melbourne. He continued he "will be paid till the end of next season so any team he was coaching will be playing as he wanted".

## WATCH EUGENE FRANK

South Melbourne's coach Danny Wright has called on National Coach Frank Farina to watch his new keeper Eugene Galekovic following yet another outstanding performance by the youngster.



Eugene Galekovic: South Melbourne's exciting custodian.

"Frank Farina should take note" said Wright after Galekovic had been awarded the man of the match award following Souths narrow victory over Parramatta.

## NSW -v- VICTORIA

The Maccabi Victoria and NSW teams will play off in the curtain raiser to the South Melbourne and Newcastle game on December 29th.

Maccabi is the state team comprising the best Jewish footballers in each state. Even a soccer team from the USA will be in Melbourne for the carnival which commences on 25th December.

## ANOTHER KNIGHTS GUEST

The Knights seem to keep pulling of the biggest names in football with several international stars appearing at Sommers Street. But this time they've really excelled.

On 22nd December before the Adelaide City they have Santa Clause on loan from the North Pole, subject to his papers coming through.

And 2003 is the 50th anniversary of the Melbourne Knights. A year of celebration will commence with their first home match attended by Premier Bracks and Sports Minister Maddern. This will constitute Mr Maddern's first return to the NSL after his ill advised involvement with the defunct Carlton club.

## NO \$100,000 FROM US

Knights General Manager John Ovcacic told ABSW his club would not, under any circumstances, pay any supplementary fees to the NSL.

Rumours circulating in NSL circles suggest every NSL Club will be slugged with a bill for \$100,000 each to cover the shortfall in the NSL's budget.

If the levy is imposed and clubs refuse to pay, and its likely every club would refuse as none have surplus cash reserves and most have significant accumulated deficits, the newly elected directors may be forced to put the competition into administration prior to the season concluding given directors statutory responsibilities combined with the sanctions faced by directors if an entity trades while insol-

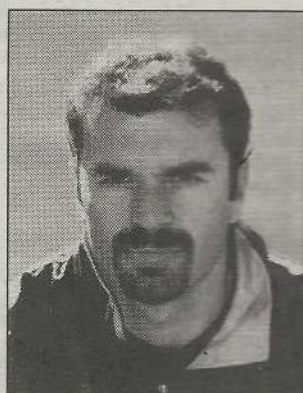
vent. ABSW was informed this week the board of Soccer Australia is operating without Directors and Officers Liability (D&O) Insurance as none of the insurers would provide the cover given SA's precarious financial position. If the NSL is placed into administration it is likely all players would be deemed free agents although there would be little initial demand for their services.

## POSTACOGLU RETURNS TO BOB JANE

Ange Postecoglou made a welcomed return to the Bob Jane Stadium on Tuesday night where his under 20 national team played a friendly against South Melbourne as their final hit out before flying to Vanuatu to compete in the Oceania World Youth Championship Qualifying tournament.

Coach Ange Postecoglou was, unaccustomed to using the visitors rooms but was pleased with his teams performance despite South Melbourne claiming a 1-0 win.

South youth team striker Ibrahim Ibrahim was the scorer, his performance will have caught Ange's eye as the youngster had several shots on goal in an excellent individual performance. The attendance at the friendly exceeded that of some NSL grounds over the weekend.



Ange Postecoglou.

# Higher School Of Learning

By George Khamo

Westfields Sports is Australia's first sports High School. The Commonwealth department of Education has described Westfields as "a project of national significance". The school aims to provide guidance within an environment that allows talented athletes opportunities to develop and realize their potential in both academic and sporting endeavors. Westfields' greatest project of international significance must be its soccer program.

Westfields boasts a whose who of domestic and international soccer talent. By far the biggest name to come out of the Fairfield West school is Leeds United superstar Harry



Harry Kewell: The most recognisable graduate of Westfields High School.

Kewell.

"Harry Kewell is a trailblazer. The only thing missing from Harry's relationship with the school is not being able to drop in. For Harry to walk in and spend five minutes in the principle's office would turn the place upside down", says Westfields Director of Soccer Trevor Morgan. And Kewell isn't the only Westfield's student to blaze a trail overseas. Successful participants in the soccer program include Jacob Burns, Jamie McMaster and Shane Cansdell-Sherriff - Leeds United (UK), Leslie Pogliacomini - Oldham (UK), Jason Culina - Ajax (HOL), Michael Brown - Feyenoord (HOL), David Carney - Everton (UK), Trent McClenahan - West Ham United (UK), Srecko Mitrovic - Piacenza (ITA), Tallan Martin - Newcastle United (UK), Gareth Edds - Reading (UK), Matthew Rosier - Southampton (UK) and James Wesolowski - Leicester City (UK).

More than a dozen players overseas and plenty more in the NSL with the likes of Sean Babic and Liam Austin - Wollongong Wolves, Nahuel Arrarte and Christian Cevenini - Sydney United, Alex Brosque, Christian Care and Eric Anabalon - Marconi, Bradley Groves, Daniel Vukovic, Stefan Del Zio, Angelo Martino and Michael Beauchamp - Parramatta Power and Matthew Osman and Matthew Hunter at Northern Spirit. The girls don't miss out either; Heather Garriock and Kelly Golebiowski have both represented Australia at senior level for the

Matildas. And one man's vision has made all this possible.

The creation of a specialist sports high school was the idea of Principal Phil Tucker 13 years ago.

"I was very aware of a massive drop out rate in sports across the high school years. Kids went from being



Jason Culina: Has moved on as a graduate of Westfields and onto the rigors of Dutch first team football.

very active in primary school and, as they got older, played less and less sport until they hardly played at all by the time they got to their HSC. I saw it with my own kids - they had to choose between sport and academic success.

"I also saw the Conservatorium High School and Newtown School of the Performing Arts doing wonderful things in their area of specialisation and I had a vision that a sports high school would create a trilogy."

It's a vision that has proven to be more than fruitful and which has now

spun off into six other specialist sports high schools, including The Hills Sports High School which will have its first Year 7 intake in 2003.

Trevor Morgan, who is also Parramatta Power's youth team coach, has coached at a youth level since 1990 and says Westfields soccer program is the most comprehensive he has experienced.

"In earlier programs there was basically one coach who did everything, obviously the limitation of that is you can't have specialists in other areas.

"At this stage we have John Crawley coming in to take care of goalkeepers; I have coaches coming in to do an elite program within the program.

"We also have people like Alex Tobin come in here to be involved with coaching."

And the specialization and commitment doesn't end there. Westfields now, albeit a high school, runs a program for primary school children to help young players find their feet at a younger age.

"In the last three years we have initiated a primary school program. We've got some kids who are very special, very talented. One boy for example was the last kid to make the PSSA state team in year five since Harry Kewell 14 years ago", says Morgan.

Another of the long-time coaches involved with Westfields soccer program is current Sydney United player David Barrett. A veteran of over 300 NSL matches, Barrett has been with



Jacob Burns: Another from the Westfields program currently playing in Europe

Westfields since 1991.

"We try to prepare the senior team the same way that I prepare as a national league player or my team prepare. Basically, I see my job as trying to prepare the senior footballers for the expectations and how one prepares physically and mentally for a game at the highest level in this country, so when they go into senior football they're not shocked or surprised by everything", Barrett says.

And it all seems to be going to plan. The senior team has won the Commonwealth Bank Cup, Australia's biggest high school level soccer competition, for the last ten years in a row, by far the most successful school in the competition. And the senior girls are a dominant force as well, winning the last seven Commonwealth Bank Shields. Also at the under 15 level, Westfields' boys have won four Bill Turner Cups and the girls have won five titles.

Westfields has produced countless players for national representation at all levels like Joeys, Olyroos, Matildas and Socceroos. Also they currently average a quarter of all state representative teams in New South Wales.

And the girls have taken their soccer domination to a new level.

"The girls are untouchable. We've played several games a year where we go on the park with eight girls and beat a side 12-nil", says Morgan with a smile.

This scribe asked Morgan and Barrett if there is a new Kewell in the midst. And there was no hesitation; both immediately said the same name... James Wesolowski.

"Freak, the best kid we've ever seen here. I don't know if I could even compare Harry to him. Play him anywhere you like. He played Commonwealth Bank Cup at 13 in year 8, he's been playing 19s for Leicester City in England and he's only just turned 15. He's hardworking, mature and intelligent", says Morgan with sheer pride.

"If anybody was going to make it, you'd put money on James. He is far superior to most players and exceptional in his dedication. You've got a kid in year 9 who's the best player in the senior team", says Barrett, who has seen many a player in his time.

So the future is burning bright for both Westfields and Australian soccer. Hopefully players like James Wesolowski and his teammates can kick Australia into a new generation of soccer success.





# QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

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## Lions Return To Winning Ways

by Paul Schiavo

**I**n a hard fought contest at Lions Stadium on Saturday night, Qld Lions returned to the winner's list with a hard fought 2-0 victory over a determined and enthusiastic Toowoomba outfit.

However this result was overshadowed by the Far North Coast Sun's first win in the Super Summer League over the previously undefeated Gold Coast side at Lismore on Saturday in Round 5 of the SSL.

### Qld Lions .....2 Toowoomba .... HT (1-0) 0

The match was only 2 minutes old when the Lion's defense was caught on the hop and only a last ditch tackle by Danny Wilson prevented Toowoomba from making the perfect start.

Lion's first strike on goal came a minute later when Damien Volker shot wide after a corner was cleared straight to the Lion's midfielder.

In the 5th minute a Justin Adams cross was cleared for a corner by the Lion's defense. From the ensuing kick the ball found its way back to Kyrt Roberts whose volley was saved on the line by Damien Volker.

Toowoomba continued to press and in the 7th minute a determined Nathan Young run led to another corner for the visitors. Trent Donovan took the corner and after a mix-up in the Lion's box, the ball fell to Jarod Davidson whose shot from the right hit the left hand upright. Lion's keeper Luke Steward seemed to have the shot covered.

Toowoomba were clearly the team looking most likely to score and were winning more than their fair share of 50-50 tackles.

In the 11th minute Lions started to get their game in order and a fine one-two between Volker and Chris Di Sipio saw Toowoomba keeper William Whell save at the feet of the Lion's striker.

Lion's were starting to get their passing game in order but were still finding it difficult to penetrate a stubborn Toowoomba defense. In the 14th minute defender Kyrt Roberts poorly controlled a harmless through-ball.

Lion's midfielder Danny Ryan pounced on the loose ball took it around Whell in the Toowoomba goal and calmly stroked the ball into an empty net to open the scoring.

Qld Lions 1 Toowoomba 0

Clearly the visitors had been the better side up until the goal but you can't give away chances like this and not expect to be punished.

In the 20th minute Chris Di Sipio, seeing that keeper Whell was off his line, tried a chip but his shot fell into the keeper's arms. Only a minute later another chip, this time by Terry Hughes was closer to the mark but Whell managed to get his fingertips on it and push the ball out for a corner.

The Lion's midfield was now dominating proceedings and Damien Volker was finding his range with some

telling cross-field passes that were giving his wide midfielders the chance to take on their markers. Danny Flasks in particular was causing some real headaches to his marker with his penetrating runs and crosses from the left.

In the 24th minute a great turn and strike by Ryan Janovsky was only centimeters wide of the far post.

It was Toowoomba's turn to dominate and in the 26th minute came their best chance of the half. Justin Adams crossed long from the right. The ball found Ben Phillips who passed to an unmarked Ryan Janovsky, only for him to send his shot over the bar from the edge of the 6yd box.

Damien Volker was the third Lion's player who tried to chip keeper Whell in the Toowoomba goals with no success in the 28th minute.

The Toowoomba defenders were starting to lose concentration and began giving the ball away in their defensive third. The Lion's midfielders, especially Volker and Hughes were seeing a lot of the ball however they weren't able to convert the possession into goals.

This could have proved fatal as a mistruck cross by Justin Adams almost found its way into the Lions net only a few minutes later. Luckily Luke Steward in goals made a difficult save look routine.

In the 35th minute Lion's defender Sean Curtis, taking the ball from almost inside his half, weaved past a number of defenders, only to see his attempt on goal well saved by Whell.

Danny Flasks was causing trouble on the left and it was one of these runs in the 40th minute that brought the best from Whell in the Toowoomba goal. After Flasks had beaten his marker using skill and sheer brute force, he sent a low right-footed shot that Whell saved down to his left.

That was the last bit of action of an even first half that Lions only dominated towards the end as the Toowoomba lads started to tire.

Half time: Qld Lions 1 Toowoomba 0

The second half started as the first half finished with Danny Flasks again causing havoc on the left. This time the winger's cross found Terry Hughes whose shot just failed to sneak inside the far post.

In the 51st minute Damien Volker knocked a great through-ball for Terry Hughes who he had seen make a fine run from deep in the midfield. Hughes rounded keeper Whell but then saw his goal bound shot brilliantly saved by Kyrt Roberts on the goal line.

Over the next fifteen minutes both sides were guilty of giving away possession, although Toowoomba were still playing with great determination and making things very difficult for their opponents.

Lion's substitute Scott Royal (on for the dangerous Flasks) had chances in the 16th and 20th minutes to get his name on the score sheet but both times good defending foiled him. Then in the 20th minute Lions scored their second.

A ball was crossed from the right and Terry Hughes snuck in before his defender on the edge of the

Toowoomba area. He was able to trap the waist high ball, round Whell in the Toowoomba goal and slot the ball into an unguarded net.

Qld Lions 2 v Toowoomba 0

The Toowoomba side seemed to drop their heads after this and only moments later a poor back pass, saw Whell fall at Chris Di Sipio's feet to stop a certain goal.

The game then degenerated into a series of fouls and free kicks that stopped the flow of what had been an enthralling game until then. Both coaches made their full range of substitutions prior to the final whistle and only a shot by Neil Monro of Lions and a stinging Nathan Young shot well saved by Luke Steward were the highlights of an uneventful last fifteen.

Final score: Qld Lions 2 v Toowoomba 0

Toowoomba coach Peter Broadfoot was pleased with his teams overall performance.

"We played much better than the previous weeks although a lack of fitness told at the end of each half and that's where Lions got the better of us. I thought we played well for the first 20 or so minutes of each half but I was disappointed with the fact that we gave them such soft goals.

We still don't have the depth of teams like Lions so it makes it difficult to make changes when necessary. We've given a chance to a number of players from country areas and they've found the going a bit tough sometimes. But it's a learning curve for them and it shows them how committed and how far they've still got to go to match it with teams such as Lions.

Lions have set the benchmark with regards to being as professional as possible with the resources one has at hand. We're trying our best to make things a professional as possible at Toowoomba and we asked our players to make a commitment in September to achieve our goals for next season. We only want players that are willing to be totally committed to the club and its endeavours."

### Far North Coast Suns .3 Gold Coast .....1

Gold Coast traveled to Lismore as the only undefeated team in the Super Summer League but left with their record in tatters after the Far North Coast Suns produced their best performance of the competition for a sensational 3-1 victory at Weston Park on Saturday night.

The Suns opened at a cracking pace and scored after 6 minutes when Adam Silva met a Clint Willoughby cross with a superb first time volley that rifled into the gold Coast net.

Buoyed by the early goal, the Suns went on to dominate the opening 20 minutes, but the Gold Coast began to settle midway through the first half forcing several errors from the Sun's defense and created chances that should have been taken. But as the match developed it became an open entertaining affair with the Suns also continuing to create opportunities at the other end.

Jed Wright in particular reeked havoc amongst the Gold Coast defenders with his ability to shield the ball and turn, then use his blistering pace to embarrass the defenders on several occasions.

The Suns withstood the Gold Coast revival to go to the break 1-0 up.

After the restart Gold Coast again began to put pressure on the Sun's defense by using clever switches of play and dangerous long balls to the far post. The Suns squandered their first few chances early in the second half and paid the price when in the 70minute a poor back-pass was intercepted allowing Andrew Oar to equalize with a dipping shot over Sun's keeper Neil Thomas.

The goal could have swung the momentum of the match in the Gold Coast's favour but the Suns showed tremendous spirit to respond with renewed intensity.

Coach Mathew Kelso made a series of substitutions that helped restore some stability with Adam Bostock, Nathan Williams and Aaron Richter-Speers all coming on to great effect. In contrast, a confident Gold Coast team had brought only one player to sit on the bench, limiting their options and leaving a few weary legs on the paddock in what was at times a tough and physical encounter.

### QLD SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE NEXT WEEK FIXTURES

All Games Kick-Off at 7.00pm

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 14**  
**QUEENSLAND LIONS**

**VS**  
**ROCHEDALE ROVERS**  
Lions Stadium, Richlands. QLD

**SUNSHINE COAST**  
**VS**  
**SOCCER FAR NORTH COAST**  
Maroochydore Rd, Kuluin. QLD

**GOLD COAST CITY**  
**VS**  
**TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS**  
Mallawa Drive Sports Complex, Palm Beach. QLD

With time running out, the match seemed destined for a 1-1 draw but no one in the large crowd could have anticipated the dramatic climax about to unfold.

When the gold Coast failed to clear a Sun's corner, Adam Holmes pounced on the loose ball to fire a shot at goal that was cleared off the line by a defender, bounced off the woodwork high into the air and was then headed goal-wards by Aaron Richter-Steers, before again being cleared away by a defender dangerously close to his own line.

Play continued for a few moments before officials halted the game to confer, with the linesman confirming that the ball had crossed the line from the Richter-Steers's header giving the Suns the lead with just minutes remaining.

The Gold Coast players protested the decision vehemently with the referee resulting in Luke Sleight being sent off for overdoing his complaints.

The Suns quickly capitalized on the numerical advantage with captain Clint Willoughby putting icing on the cake with a quality goal in the dying moments. Willoughby capped off a fine game by drilling a low shot from 25 metres that gave Conrad in goals no chance, triggering jubilant scenes on and off the paddock.

Jed Wright was named Man of the Match for his tireless efforts but it wasn't easy to pick the best player in a game where every Sun's player rose to the occasion and as a team, came of age against quality opposition.

Sun's coach Matt Kelso is encouraged by the steady improvement of the side at the half waypoint of the competition saying

"The character of the side is really starting to develop. They had the self belief and the self confidence to respond after the Coast equalized and I'm really happy with the way they finished the game especially the contribution of the subs who helped restore the shape and get us back into the game."

Gold Coast coach Karle Herdle felt that the better side had won but was obviously concerned at the events that led to the Sun's second goal.

"The play had continued for about three phases before the officials consulted.

I think most teams will find it very difficult to play here in front of the Sun's supporters. No excuses though and we look forward to our next match against Toowoomba."

In the final match of the round, the Sunshine Coast defeated Rochdale Rovers 2-1.

## QUEENSLAND SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE

### Results & Table

TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS . . . . .	0	SUNSHINE COAST . . . . .						4
QUEENSLAND LIONS . . . . .	3	GOLD COAST CITY . . . . .						4
ROCHEDALE ROVERS . . . . .	3	SOCCER FAR NORTH COAST . . . . .						2
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Sunshine Coast	5	4	0	1	10	6	12	
Qld Lions	5	3	0	2	16	7	9	
Gold Coast City	5	2	2	1	11	9	8	
Rochdale	5	2	1	2	10	10	7	
S.F.N.C. Lismore	5	2	0	3	9	10	6	
Toowoomba	5	0	1	4	3	15	1	



# Letters to the Editor

## CLUB OVER COUNTRY?

Dear Sir,  
After reading an article in your paper last week titled "Holman Out Pelligrino In", I'd like to add a few comments to this piece.

It's quite clear that Brett Holman's decision was not of his own but of the club he is currently at as well.

These young players are earning quite a pay packet wherever they play and for Holman to come

down and play in Vanuatu against third world countries was simply not worth it.

I sympathize with Holman, as anyone in his position would probably have done the same. If he had gone to these qualifiers who is to say he was going to be offered a spot back at his Dutch club?

I'm a firm believer that the player should look after himself first, his career is more important

than anything else as playing for a club is what is going to earn him a living in the future.

Representing your country will always be a great honour, don't get me wrong, but your future is far more important.

If he's as good as people say he is then he'll probably end up playing for the Socceroos down the track?

John Pancev,  
Preston, VIC.

## SOCCEROO SELECTION

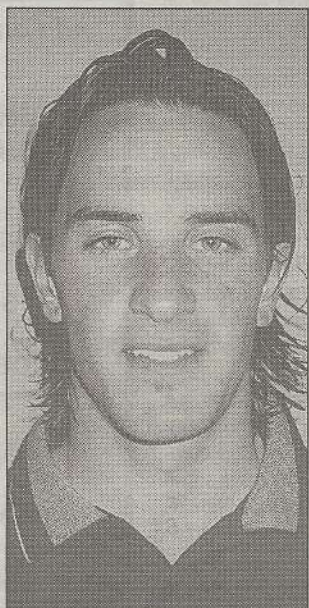
Dear Sir,

What does it take for a National League player to gain the right to represent the Socceroos against a good quality outfit these days?

Let's face it, the National League stars here are subject to playing against fourth-rate countries like Tonga, Vanuatu, Cook Islands etc and always fail to land the bigger games ala Uruguay but why?

I understand that there are many Aussies overseas and that are doing well at their respective clubs but I have to argue at a point that we do boost some great players of our own in this league.

Damian Mori, Matthew Horsley, Clint Bolton, Joel



Angelo Costanzo should be in the Socceroo squad?

Griffiths, Joel Porter, Angelo Costanzo and the list goes on of players who I think are capable of donning the green and gold jersey but in Farina's A list squad. It's true that there is an A and B squad and unfortunately all the B squad members are of the National League.

It's no wonder youngsters are forced to move abroad in their plight of making the Socceroos in years to come.

It was good to see the U20's side mostly made up of young National League stars, can't the Socceroos use that as an example that we do have talent in this league as well?

Concerned Supporter,  
George Vastic,  
Green Gully, VIC.

## LIGHTS OUT AT POWER

Dear Sir,

It is sad to see that Parramatta Power is to be longer apart of the National League.

Last week's announcement, while I did expect it, is rather disappointing because it means that one of the best financially supported clubs will be removed from the national league, hence decreasing the value within the competition and bringing it closer to the brink of collapse.

We need clubs like the Power and the Glory where there is generous financial support.

Other teams in the competi-

tion simply do not have the resources to function successfully. I am not saying that clubs such as the Power solely fund the competition, rather what I am saying is that they bring a certain glamour to the matches and without them, a certain prestige is sadly lost.

I believe some European club for the sake of the game must salvage the Power.

It is true that soccer in this country is struggling and that sponsorship and media are at an all time low, but the only thing that soccer needs to get a kick-

start is for some well-established company or organisation to have a continued presence in the sport.

Then when the game does take-off these companies would be considered pioneers. While it is true that Parramatta Leagues had the right idea, to abandon it after only five years is somewhat premature.

If the Leagues club had abandoned their football team in the dry patches of the early 90's would they have been able to enjoy the success of the late 1990's?

Soccer in this country needs the Power and the club must survive.

Sean Bowden,  
Castle Hill, NSW.



## BRING IN THE DRAGONS

Dear Sir,

After reading a few newspaper reports last week on the possible inclusion of the Melbourne Dragons, I say bring them in!

What has the league got to lose especially in its current situation?

The Dragons have shown that they have the cash to enter the lead under the company Golden Star and their President Bing Liu has stated his desire to gain entry in the National League.

SA should seriously consider this side, it's just

not fair having five clubs from Sydney to Melbourne's two.

Those clubs in Sydney hardly manage good crowds, the Dragons will surely target a new audience to the game so I say give the guys a go for the good of the game.

Now is the time to help promote the code out, especially with Ian Knop out, SA should be starting on a new and hopefully better chapter.

Dominic Vitale,  
Fitzroy, VIC.

## KNOP CHOPPED!

Dear Sir,

I for one had been long calling for Ian Knop and his followers to hand in their resignation.

It was obvious from their own comments, such as those made by Nick Greiner and included in last week's issue of your paper that they were clearly not committed to helping soccer in this country.

Now that it has happened I believe that soccer will be able to move in a forward direction.

No longer are there opposing forces present in the organisation that will hinder the movement of Soccer Australia.

In two members, Dominic Galati and Paul Afkos, they have the necessary ambition and ideas to propel soccer in the right direction.

Both men come from different background and I believe this will be invaluable to the

running of the organisation. Yet they are linked in one thing, their love for soccer.



Former Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop.

I do not believe that this was present in the last reign of Ian Knop.

Sure they tried to reform the game, but I ask what was their motive.

I believe that it was so they themselves could leave a legacy, just like David Hill.

He left a legacy that left the game in total chaos and I believe Knop and his supporters were going to do likewise.

The time is now right for reform to occur.

If that starts at the top and works it way down, then I say bring it on.

All things worthwhile often require a sacrifice.

Maybe the sacrifice was the culling of Ian Knop and his supporters so that a bright new era in soccer can occur.

Frank Crisco,  
Merrylands, NSW.

## GET IT RIGHT!

Dear Sir,

Last week media reports leaked a story about a so-called rift between Leeds stars Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka only to see the story backfire in a matter of days hearing the Viduka said the story was blown out of context.

Are these guys kidding themselves when they say they are accurate and astute journalists?

How could you write a misleading story about Australian

## SHED SAVIOUR

Dear Sir,

Really enjoy reading the tidbits in your section From the Dressing Sheds. It gives me the chance to catch up on all the smaller news that is happening in the National League and beyond.

I noticed that the big daily papers have tried to use such a section, but their information and accuracy sadly lacks.

Your paper gets to stories that are only just breaking when your paper comes out

and by the time it is received by the daily papers is old news to me because I heard it first in your paper. Keep up the good work.

The page helps me to realise that soccer is much more than just something that happens on the weekend.

It is a business that is constantly moving throughout the week.

From the email  
Vince Capozzi



Harry Kewell & Mark Viduka.

soccer's most prized players and come up with information that is inaccurate?

Its stories like these that put the name of soccer down and from my point of view these guys are supposed to be helping the code out with good aspects about the world game not negative ones. We already have enough of it as it is, its time to see good things.

Hopefully the pair put this behind them and let's hope to see the Aussie boys in the World Cup in 2006, It all starts from now!

Phil Noyce  
Sunshine Coast, QLD.

## Leeds United - First Division Next Year

Dear Sir,

I watched the Tottenham v Leeds game on TV a few weeks back.

Leeds lost again, Viduka came off the bench and Harry Kewell was running round like some one was lost in the outback.

I can't see Leeds winning anything this season, and poor old El-Tel will get the blame.

D. Gardner  
Hampton Park, VIC.

## TARGET BUSINESSMEN?

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that a number of high profile businessmen have been targeted in order to help fund the game out.

I heard people like Frank Lowy, Rene Rivkin and a few

more names have been speaking to SA about gaining some sought of role in the code.

This would be the best step soccer could take with the help of these men as they will provide the financial backbone for soccer to become number one

in this country.

I haven't heard anything concrete on this issue but if SA play their cards right and lure these men in, we could see the code improving for once.

John Madonis,  
Botany, NSW.



# OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

## RED HOT SWITCH BURNS HINDMARSH

**I**ll fortune continues to follow the efforts of the Hindmarsh Stadium management to fully utilise the magnificent facility.

The latest set-back in a catalogue of disasters came late last Monday night when a shock decision was made to relocate the Red Hot Chili Peppers concert, scheduled for Tuesday night, from the stadium to the nearby Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

The US pop group would have been the first live act to play at the stadium since The Eagles thrilled a packed crowd there in 1995.

Last year, another US pop band, KISS, also relocated from Hindmarsh Stadium to the Entertainment Centre when it is believed ticket sales failed to reach the expected numbers. The official reason given for the switch of the Red Hot Chili Peppers gig was that a "structural fault" occurred when the stage roof collapsed during its erection.

It is believed that a faulty weld in the roofing frame could have contributed to the fault.

Promoter Brian Gleeson said the relocation did not reflect in any way on the suitability of Hindmarsh Stadium to house live

concerts. The Eagles concert drew 16,000 to the venue in the pre-redevelopment days of the stadium, with the majority of the crowd seated on the pitch.

Hindmarsh Stadium, now managed by the SA Government, is anxious to return the venue to a going concern, something not feasible since the demise of the West Adelaide Sharks NSL team and the Adelaide Rams rugby league club.

Adelaide City, which co-tenants the modern stadium with the SA Soccer Federation, still is contemplating moving its NSL home fixtures to the antiquated Norwood Oval, claiming the switch could save the Force between \$100,000-\$250,000 in yearly rental and associated costs. Perth Glory chairman Nick Tana said on his last visit to Adelaide his wish would be to transport Hindmarsh Stadium from South Australia to Western Australia.

## STADIUM LIFELINE

**B**etter news for the Hindmarsh Stadium management comes with the South Australian Rugby League agreeing to become a new tenant at the wonderful facility. Sport Minister Michael Wright said on Monday that a deal had been struck with the SARL after months of negotiations.

He said the deal was a win for both the sport of rugby league and the stadium. "This is really a positive step to make Hindmarsh Stadium a true multi-use venue for South Australians," he said.

The SARL will relocate its headquarters from Ram Park, Oakden, where Adelaide City trains, to Hindmarsh Stadium.

The stadium management will make available previously unoccupied office accommodation at the venue for the SARL.

SARL general manager Bob Hucker revealed that his league had been attempting to entice interstate rugby league teams to play in Adelaide.

St George played a number of "home" matches at Adelaide Oval in 1992, while the

defunct Rams staged their home matches at Hindmarsh Stadium before News Ltd pulled the plug on the team.

## AWARD FOR REFEREE

**T**he South Australian Soccer Federation honoured former FIFA referee Don Campbell with its Meritorious Service Award at its Annual General Meeting last Wednesday (December 4).

Scottish born Campbell joined fellow South Australian recipients, Peter Nikolich and Zoran Matic on the Soccer Australia Roll of Honour list as members for Meritorious Contribution in 1999.

Nine years earlier Campbell was accorded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to soccer. Campbell was a Scottish Schoolboy international in 1952 and on arrival in Adelaide, resumed playing for the local Polonia club in 1964.

But it was as a referee that he made his mark when he was in charge of a remarkable 118 international and representative matches, including World Cup qualifiers and Olympic qualifiers.

Add to that list nine NSL finals, 36 South Australian league finals and a highlight Bicentennial Gold Cup final between Australia and Brazil at the Sydney Football Stadium and the enormity of his achievements zoom into focus.

He underlined his incredible consistency as a whistle blower by winning the NSL Referee of the Year award in three successive seasons 1985-86 and 87.

The development of junior players has always been a passion for Campbell, starting in 1969 with the Birkalla juniors when he tutored players like Tony Dorigo, Alex Tobin, Sergio Melta, Steve Maxwell and a host of other future luminaries.

Three seasons of senior coaching saw Campbell in charge of Adelaide Croatia (1990-91), Blackwood (1991-92) and West Beach Amateurs (1993).

He was State referees coach from 1996

until 1999 when regular radio broadcasting lured him behind the Coast FM microphones.

## YATES JOINS GREATS

**S**teely defender Mark Yates last Wednesday night linked up with the "Who's Who" of SA player icons when he was accorded Player Life Membership of the SASF.

To qualify for the honour the recipients must tally 20 games or more for the State team. With the seven interstate games he notched during this SA Centenary season, Yates ended with 22 appearances.

Yates, 29, tallied 128 NSL games for NSL club Adelaide City Force under legendary coaches Zoran Matic, John Perin and Johnny Nyskohus, after starting his career as a 14-year old in the Para Hills Under 15 squad. His first senior game with Para, under coach Martyn Crook, coincided with his initial State team selection. Yates then switched his defensive talents to Modbury Jets before embarking on a heady six seasons with Adelaide City. He was back at Golden Grove playing for the Jets during the next couple of years and then that widely known false start



Mark Yates won the Player Life Membership of the SASF.

at Para Hills followed.

Yates heeded a call from Adelaide Galaxy last season, but the next campaign will be spent with new Premier League champions Raiders. SA's great unbeaten sequence during the Fasta Pasta Centenary Interstate Challenge gave Yates immense pleasure.

In company with SA captain Michael Brooks, Frank Sergi, George Tsonis and Aaron Westervelt, Yates joined the State men who took to the field in all seven interstate matches. Yates said he is looking forward to competing in the Bianco Summer Night Series. "We will probably use the competition as trial games for the Premier League season. "But, I should add, that we always like to win."

Footnote: SA Player Life Members are Alex Beattie, Billy Birch, Charley DiBartolo, Neville Flounders, Charlie Horvath, Milan Ivanovic, Henry Kolecki, John Kosmina, Frank Lister, Jack Mather, Jim McCabe, David Mitchell, Bugsy Nyskohus, John Nyskohus, Nick Pantelis, John Perin, Barry Reynolds, Roger Romanowicz, Paul Simmons, Bob Telfer, Alex Tobin, Mark Yates. Dear Reader, Do you see what we mean about icons?

## FOXES COACH QUILTS

**C**umberland United coach Richard Preston has resigned the position after two seasons at Bailey Reserve.

The former West Adelaide Sharks striker told ABSW he made the decision because his young sons Oliver, 10, and Brendon, 9, were rejected as players at Cumberland.

"Both my boys took part in the recent junior trials but were told they would not be picked in the junior squads for next season," Preston said. "I now will have to take my sons to another club and I don't see how I can be coaching at Cumberland, while they are playing for a different club." Preston succeeded David Leane as Cumberland coach in 2001 after Leane had been in charge for the previous seven seasons.

## SWISS DELIGHT FOR CHIPPERFIELD

**I**n an interview on SBS' The World Game show, Chipperfield revealed that all was going well for him with the Swiss champions although he and his team-mates are not expecting to progress past the second phase of Europe's elite league.

"Not many people expected us to get this far, so it has been a real big bonus," he began.

Recently back from a long term injury, Chipperfield is a big



Scott Chipperfield enjoying his time at Basel.

favourite of coach Christian Gross and is eager to return to his sizzling best to keep his place in the starting line-up.

"Yeah I was pretty happy (with my performance against Man United). It was only my third game back with the team after three months out injured so I was pretty

happy," explained the two-time NSL player of the year.

"My fitness is still a little bit not 100 percent but I was happy overall.

"But things are going along good at the moment."

Chipperfield admits that a Champions League winners' medal with Basel is a pipe dream but the team is focused on mixing it with Europe's big guns again next season.

"Our main aim at the moment is the league because if we can win the league then we can get that chance to qualify for the Champions League again next year," he continued.

"At the moment there are only two teams in it, us and Grasshoppers and I think third place is about 13 points behind so it's a big game for us on the weekend."

Like most other Australian players, Chipperfield harbours a dream to play in the Premier League but insists he is more than happy at Basel.

"The club has been really good to me since I've been injured and the coach has got a high opinion of me and he likes to play me when I am available.

"My aim at the moment is to play in England."

And with his eyes firmly set on recapturing his place on the left flank in the Australian national team, Chipperfield will do his utmost to impress before the squad is selected for the England friendly in February.

"It's a hard choice for Frank (Farina). I think there are a lot of

good players around at the moment," a diplomatic Chipperfield said.

"From what I have read there is going to be a squad of 18 so it's going to be very hard to get in that squad but if I can have some strong performances between now and then and hopefully get picked, I am sure a lot of players will be wanting to play this game against England because it is one of the biggest games Australia has played apart from Uruguay in the last few years.

"I'm not sure what Frank's plans are. The game against Uruguay I was left out of the squad there and it was a little bit disappointing, but you've got some good players on the left hand side who are getting a little bit older now and I am not sure if they will be around in the next world."

With his former NSL side Wollongong Wolves struggling this season and the national league in turmoil, Chipperfield is hopeful that the situation can be rectified before it's too late.

"The last few years the NSL has been going downhill, with sponsorship and money and some of the clubs are struggling to keep up financially so it is disappointing because it gives a lot of the young players a chance to show what they can do at a good level.

"And a lot of players do go overseas just from playing in the national league like I did so it would be disappointing if something doesn't happen in the near future to change the direction of the soccer in Australia."

## Viduka Misquoted

**S**occeroos striker Mark Viduka insists he has no ill feeling toward Leeds and national teammate Harry Kewell and claims that he had been misquoted by a Sydney newspaper.

Viduka was quoted in a weekend report as having said that the Socceroos stars had barely spoken in two years at Elland Road and that Kewell did not speak to incumbent Australian skipper Paul Okon - also now at Leeds. But the 27-year-old told Leeds' official website: "The comments in that interview were taken totally out of context.



Mark Viduka says he was misquoted about comments he made on team-mate Harry Kewell.

"I have never had a problem with Harry at all," Viduka added.

"Harry is a quiet guy and we are different types off the field but it is totally untrue to say that we have rarely spoken for two years."

For his part, Kewell said he was surprised at Viduka's comments and denied there was any ill blood between the two. He told the Daily Telegraph yesterday: "I've never had a problem with Mark and have no idea what he's trying to achieve by saying these things.

"I'm sure his comments will disappoint the fans of Leeds and Australia alike. I've always believed that a player's boots should do the talking and nothing has changed," Kewell added.

## All Systems Go For Susa

**F**ormer Young Socceroos midfielder Zeljko Susa has finally been cleared from Hajduk Split by FIFA and can now be registered to play for South Melbourne.

Susa had been in dispute with the Croatian club for several months after returning home for treatment on a knee injury that didn't heal until he was operated on in Australia.

The 24-year-old also claimed that he was still owed money under the terms of his contract.

But Hajduk refused to pay Susa what it owed him, counter claiming that he had breached his deal by remaining in Australia, forcing Soccer Australia to seek a ruling from FIFA on Susa's



Zeljko Susa has finally been cleared to play for South Melbourne.

behalf.

Under the decision handed down by FIFA's Dispute Resolution Chamber, the Croatian Football Federation must provide an international transfer registration certificate (ITRC) to Soccer Australia, with a copy to FIFA as well.

Also, Soccer Australia is permitted to register Susa with South Melbourne on a provisional basis until it receives the ITRC, meaning he is available for South's Round 12 match against the Brisbane Strikers this Saturday at Ballymore.

But Hajduk has been given 20 days to appeal the ruling, meaning Susa may not yet have heard the last of the matter



# DUNN COLLECTS ULTIMATE WA AWARD

By Richard Kreider

**F**ormer Soccerroo sweeper Robbie Dunn added to his already distinguished football career with induction into the Western Australia's Soccer Hall of Fame at a lavish function in Perth last Saturday night.

Under the auspices of the Soccer Administration of WA (SAWA), eleven players were welcomed into the Hall of Champions and fourteen people into the Hall of Recognition.

Almost 300 people crammed into the Parmelia Room of the Parnell Hilton, including the WA Premier, Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA, who played soccer at Oxford University and the Minister for Sport & Recreation Alan Carpenter MLA, on top of many of WA's soccer heroes of the past, who had clearly enjoyed what was a night of soccer nostalgia that was free of both egos and spite to the world game.

Former Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop, who resigned three days before the function, was still keen to make his fourth visit to the west and made a biting statement from the podium about the game in Australia before closing by saying he is, "not leaving the game but will be on the fringes for a long time to come."

An award was also made to the visiting English cricket team, since it has been 100 years when a Western Australian State team played its first game – and that was against an English cricket select in March 1902. Travelling CEO Phil Neal received a commemorative certificate from Hall of Fame committee member Richard Kreider just prior to the Hall of Fame presentation.

The next induction night will be moved to a larger venue since there were just as many people seeking tickets as there were who were lucky to get them.

Dunn was born in Scotland before moving to Perth at the tender age of eight. He first played as a right-winger for Kwinana United where he made his first team debut at the age of 15. After stints at Rockingham and North Perth Croatia, Dunn moved to Adelaide Azzurri in 1981 before making his National Soccer League debut with West Adelaide not long after. He also played for Preston Makedonia and Melbourne Croatia for a total of 168 NSL appearances which included an amazing five Fairest & Best awards. He was eventually selected for Australia in 1985 against Italian club Udinese and went on to gain another 43 caps. His international highlights include the

memorable 4-1 win over Argentina in 1986, a 0-0 draw with Scotland and a 1-0 win over Yugoslavia at the Seoul Olympics. The Hall of Champions award

ances for Australia on top of 228 NSL matches under his belt. He had also signed for German club Eintracht Frankfurt and English club Sheffield United.



Former Soccerroo sweeper Robbie Dunn shown congratulated by ABSW's Richard Kreider for his induction into WA's soccer Hall of Fame.

goes with the Soccer Australia Award of Distinction he received last year.

Arno Bertogna is another ex-Soccerroo inducted with 13 appear-

ances for Australia on top of 228 NSL matches under his belt. He had also signed for German club Eintracht Frankfurt and English club Sheffield United.

and Zygmunt Peda, who changed the dimension of the WA game since they set foot on West Australian soil were also Hall of Champions inductees, along with Denis Barstow, Mike Ireson, Sauro Iozzelli and Royston 'Mac' Evans, a player from the foundation era of the game in the west.

Meanwhile, former SAWA and East Fremantle Tricolore president Lou Ricci, who was instrumental in persuading the governing body to admit a team in the NSL, was admitted into the Hall of Recognition, along with former Chelsea, West Ham, Reading and Portsmouth player Ron Tindall, who has been heavily involved in coaching in the west. Others include popular secretary Ted Gray, journalist Frank Miller, Zyggy Kramer, John Van Hoek, Henk Beumer, Dave Woodfin and Bob Watson of the referees association.

There were a number of country inductees, namely Dick Fearon from Bunbury, Dom Italiano (Collie), Doug Grant (Albany) and the late Sam Sciuto (Geraldton). Aleck Peters, who was called the 'father' of soccer, made a substantial contribution during the foundational era - between 1896 and 1904.

## 1996 INDUCTEES: HALL OF CHAMPIONS:

Ron Adair, Alan Beale, Sandra Brentnall, Robert Cherry, Jack Conduit, John Davidson, Len Dundo, James Gordon, John Henderson, Peter Holt, Ray Iltott, David Jones, Stewart Johnson, Alex Marr, Frank McShane, Sharon Mateljan, Don McArdle, John McInroy, Gary Marocchi, Hugh Miller, David O'Callaghan, John O'Connell, Graham Oughton, Theo Paap, Con Purser, Stephen Sceats, Anna Senjuschenko, Jack Smethurst and William Waddell.

## HALL OF RECOGNITION:

The Burt family, Harry Croft, Peter Dimopoulos, Tom D'Orsogna, Claude Eayrs, Barbara Gibson, Barry Harwood, Dr Oscar Mate, Mick Mateljan, Bob McShane, Fred Newton, Ron Oswald, Stan Power, Julius Re, Barbara Rogoysky, Roy Stedman and Alan Vest.

# THE FIRST GAME

By Richard Kreider

**T**o commemorate the first game by a Western Australian State side, here is a match report of the game between WA and an English

## Cricket Select.

History was made on Monday March 24, 1902, when a West Australian representative team played a select eleven from the touring English cricketers at Fremantle Oval.

The teams were as follows, with

the players soccer clubs, including the cricketers, in brackets.

Although not classified an authentic international, the game was momentous in its own right since it was the very first game played by a Western Australian representative side. The friendly was made possible when the WA British Football Association successfully negotiated with the English Cricket team, who had completed their cricket commitments, to have a hit-out while their steamship berthed briefly at Fremantle before continuing on its journey to London.

Organised soccer in WA was only six years old in 1902 and still yet to make an impact on the local community, since Australian Rules, Cricket, Rugby and even Lacrosse were already established sports. So, no doubt a novelty factor would have played a part in producing a healthy attendance of almost 4,000, who paid an entrance fee of sixpence, of which the total income from the game amounted to 89-3s-3d.

Many of the curious onlookers would have also attended simply to see their cricket heroes, albeit playing a different sport, although they were equally adept at kicking a leather ball as they were at hitting one with the willow.

The visitors, wearing white shirts and blue shorts – or knickers as they were quaintly described, won the toss and elected to go with the sea breeze. And it didn't take long for the Western Australians (sporting gold shirts with an embroidered black swan and white shorts) to realise there would be a gulf in playing quality between the two sides.

A line from the following days



West Australia State Team - 1902

Rear l-r: Aleck Peters (sec), Clark (line), Reg Burt (Perth), G. McKenzie (Corinthians), A. Goad (Southern Cross), Fred Burt (Perth), J. Gorton (Corinthians), WC Thomas (v-Pres), Captain White (Chair).

Front: G. Field (Perth), Arthur Hardwicke (Perth), Bert Fletcher (Olympic), George Hatton (Capt) (Civil Service), T.O'Nurse (Olympic), S. Williams (Civil Service).

"The West Australian" match report summed it up nicely, "The Englishmen were superior to the home team all round and they gave an excellent exposition of the 'socker' game, such a one that must have opened the eyes of hundreds of onlookers."

Played in hot sunny conditions, the cricketers took only five minutes of play before taking the lead, when Hayward went on a solo run before slipping the ball to Gunn, who finished the move of by drilling the ball into the net.

The State side looked for immediate retribution but found the visiting skipper Quaife difficult to pass. In fact Quaife went on to turn in a man-of-the-match performance with his vision, interceptions and stylish

heading which were continually cheered by the large crowd.

There was then a sustained period of end to end play before the cricketers increased their lead again through Gunn. After Hardwicke made a great stop to a Blythe strike and a Quaife strike ricocheted off a State player before glancing the crossbar, the score was 3-0 not long after when Field lined up Jones to fire home. The second-half began with Williams moved to centre-forward in place of R. Burt who changed places with O'Nurse at inside-left but the alteration however, failed to enhance the State's chances of getting back into the game, and despite the wind on their backs increasing in strength. Midway into the second-period the

cricketers pushed their goalkeeper Gil Jessop up front with Braund moved between the sticks and went about annoying the local defence with his pace. He was eventually rewarded with a goal after being on the end of a quick counter-attack.

Quaife later remarked the local players would be better off without the individual play and to instil more team work, which is far more effective and more entertaining.

"I'm delighted to have had the chance of helping the game and pleased that the game was an unqualified success to all concerned," he said.

The players were later given a warm send-off at Fremantle harbour accompanied by the sounds of "Auld Lang Syne"

Date:	Monday March 24, 1902
Teams:	Western Australia v English Cricket select XI
Venue:	Fremantle Oval
Teams:	WA:
Goal:	A.S. Hardwicke - Perth
L/back:	G. Hatton - Civil Service
R/back:	G. Field - Perth
L/half:	A. Fletcher - Olympic
C/half:	A. Goad - Southern Cross
R/half:	J. Gorton - Corinthians
O/left:	S. Williams
I/left:	T.O'Nurse - Olympic
Centre:	R. Burt - Perth
I/right:	G. McKenzie - Corinthians
O/right:	F. Burt - Perth

## A.C. MACLARENS XI:

Goal:	G.L. Jessop - Cambridge University
L/back:	C. McGahey - Clapton FC
R/back:	A.A. Lilley - Birmingham Lge
L/half:	H.G. Garnett - Liverpool RFC
C/half:	J.T. Tyldesley - Old Mancunians
R/half:	W.G. Quaife (capt) - Sussex County FC
O/left:	W. Gunn - Notts County FC
I/left:	(C.) Blythe - no record
Centre:	L.C. Braund - Somerset County
I/right:	A.O. Jones - Leicester Fosse
O/right:	T. Hayward - Kennington Wanderers

Referee:	Mr. Robson, Linesmen: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Clark.
Score:	WA 0 - 4 England Cricket select XI (HT 0-3)
Scorers:	WA nil, English Cricketers: Gunn 2, Jones, Jessop



# NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002/03

## IT'S ALL OUT WAR

By Graham Cooke

A war of words between the Australian Sports Commission and the board of Soccer Australia cranked up a notch last week with ASC chief executive Mark Peters saying that Soccer Australia will have "no option" other than to implement all reasonable recommendations of the Crawford inquiry into the sport.

The board hit back with a press statement saying while it would take "all reasonable steps" to implement the recommendations, it did have "a great concern" with a letter signed by former chairman Ian Knop and former chief executive Alan Vessey, which "clearly indicates that Soccer Australia will, without question or reference to its stakeholders, accept and implement the recommendations of the Crawford inquiry sight unseen".

The statement followed some of the toughest talking yet by Peters who said it had been made clear to SA that it must use its best endeavours to implement all reasonable recommendations of the inquiry.

"Soccer Australia will have no option other than to do this," he said. "This has been conveyed to and accepted by SA board members prior to and post the Soccer Australia annual general meeting on

October 26."

He also made it clear the ASC wanted a say in who succeeds Vessey, saying its involvement in the appointment of CEOs of national sporting organisations that were significantly supported by the commission, was standard practice.

However the SA board statement indicates it is reserving the right to throw out any recommendations of the Crawford inquiry it finds unpalatable.

Meanwhile, Soccer Canberra waded into the fray saying the resignations of Knop, Vessey, President Nick Greiner and commissioner Graeme Bowker were a tragedy.

SC President Steve Doszpot also demanded an explanation of media reports that a SA board member would be paid up to \$650,000 if he successfully negotiated a deal with Channel 7.

"In view of the criticism that was applied to chairman Ian Knop by certain members of the board regarding his dealings with Channel 7, these allegations - if true - are totally unacceptable and pose serious questions regarding conflict of interest," he said.

"If these allegations are substantiated, then nothing less than the immediate resignation of all the directors of Soccer Australia who voted for this course of action would suffice."

## CANBERRA TO RESTRUCTURE THEIR LEAGUE

By Graham Cooke

Canberra's clubs have agreed on a major restructuring of the territory competition, with the axing of the under-23 division, a premier division played over two days, and the use of unenclosed ovals if clubs so wished.

The premiership survives, but clubs entering will be required to nominate only a first team. Other divisions will extend down as far as eight, with players from the old under-23 competition finding a suitable level.

There will be a separate under-19 competition, played on Sundays and possibly consisting of two divisions. Three over-age players will be allowed to compete.

The Federation Cup will revert to a pre-season competition, kicking off in early March with all clubs invited to take part. The league season will begin a month later.

The restructuring should see a boost in numbers for the premiership, which would otherwise have been reduced to seven members in 2003.

Clubs like ANU, who have constantly refused promotion to the top league because of the requirement to field a youth team and play on Sundays on enclosed grounds, may now be tempted to take the plunge.

Clubs will be able to digest the new order over the Christmas holidays with nominations for all divisions likely to be called for in late January or early February.

## NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002-2003 NORTHERN DIVISION

### RESULTS - ROUND 12

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2002

ACTAS

(Own goal 24')

1 ACTAS 3  
(Barisic 2', 24', 36')

Canberra Deakin

(Spaleta 31' pen 87', Caldwell 60')

3 Newcastle United Youth 2  
(Wilkinson 18', A. Hughes 53')

AIS

(Jankovski 7', Celeksi 36')

2 Marconi Mustangs 0

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2002

Parramatta Power Youth

(R. Cardozo 2', 8', Kerr 52')

3 Sydney United Youth 2  
(Collina 61', Urizar 62')

Marconi Stallions Youth

(Talevski 67')

1 Northern Spirit Youth 1  
(Woodruffe 25' pen)

BYE - Olympic Sharks Youth  
BYE - Wollongong Wolves Youth

### NORTHERN DIVISION - ROUND 12

TEAM	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power Youth	10	7	2	2	1	30	14	23
AIS	9	5	3	2	1	14	6	18
Canberra Deakin	11	5	2	2	4	28	17	17
Wollongong Wolves Youth	9	5	2	2	2	20	11	17
Sydney United Youth	9	5	0	2	4	25	15	15
Olympic Sharks Youth	11	3	5	1	3	13	12	14
Newcastle United Youth	10	3	4	1	3	16	14	13

## Wollongong Youth teams set to thrive

By Peter Damalas

According to Wollongong Wolves youth coach, Eddie Tesoro, Australia has a bright future when it comes to the development of young talent.

With the Under 20s national squad preparing for World Youth Championship qualifiers in March 2003 in the United Arab Emirates, this call of optimism has come at an important time.

After joining the coaching ranks at the two-time National League champions three years ago, Eddie Tesoro has implemented a unique youth system. The south coast side are perhaps one of the most organised clubs in the country, with the youth development scheme following strict and clinical guidelines.

"Our system is different to other clubs in many ways. We have a development officer and junior convenor with whom I keep in touch regularly and hold monthly meetings. When selecting players for the team, we set out to prove that the player is in fact the best candidate," Mr. Tesoro said.

The Wolves have invested greatly in cultivating a football culture in the Illawarra region, reaching as far south as Nowra. The coaching and administrative staff have worked together to attract the most talented young players on the south coast and keep the players focused.

Mr. Tesoro claims that players who progress through the Under 13 ranks to the Under 17s have a 90-95% chance of making the elite youth level. Under this system, players from the latter age group will come up to the Under 19s for a spell, allowing them time on the park before returning.

Mr. Tesoro described the process of selecting talented and disciplined players as an 'art form'.

"It is important to find players with the right attitude and to make sure they don't get big heads from playing at the top" he said.

An academy has been established recently to assist juniors in their development, regardless of age or learning stage, with trials to be held in February.

While the Under 19 squad are currently placed second in the National Youth League, Mr. Tesoro maintains that progression into first grade is the important issue.

"When you look at other clubs, one has to ask why they field different teams every year and scrap the Under 17s? Why don't they go through the entire system?"

"In two years, we have had seven players progress from youth to first grade, and some of these have come through from Under 12s. The problem with development football in this country is that clubs are too impatient and will change teams to achieve success. We need to prove that kids can go through the club and reach the elite level. We need to have more faith in our young players and retain the coaching staff" he said.

And like the tertiary set up at Ajax Amsterdam, the Wolves have close ties with the University of Wollongong, and education is given a major priority for the players. Star striker, Leighal Dellis has graduated from the Wollongong junior sides and is currently in America with a scholarship. After winning successive NSL championships in 2000 and 2001, the Wollongong youth teams have experienced positive results. The Under 17s recently won the junior winter league while the Under 19s (effectively the reserve grade) have been invited to an international tournament in France, as Australia's sole representative. Wollongong will compete with the likes of Barcelona, Juventus, Internazionale, AC Milan and Bordeaux starting April 11.

"I believe that the youth in Australia are very fresh and exciting. When it comes to development, we are near the top of the tree, and it is not all doom and gloom. It is important for young players to enjoy the game they are playing" Mr. Tesoro said.



Wollongong Wolves Youth coach Eddie Tesoro.

ACTAS	8	4	1	2	3	14	14	13
Northern Spirit Youth	9	3	3	2	3	7	6	12
QAS	10	2	2	2	6	13	28	8
Marconi Stallions Youth	10	2	2	2	6	40	27	8
Marconi Mustangs	10	0	2	2	8	2	28	2

## NORTHERN DIVISION FIXTURES - ROUND 13

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2002

ACTAS v Canberra Deakin

MATCH BROUGHT FORWARD FROM ROUND 15 -  
To be played on 11 Dec 2002  
Olympic Sharks Youth v AIS

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2002

Marconi Mustangs vs Marconi Stallions Youth

Newcastle United Youth vs ACTAS  
Postponed Match from Round 1

Northern Spirit Youth vs Parramatta Power Youth  
AIS v Wollongong Wolves Youth

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2002

Sydney United Youth v QAS

BYE - Newcastle United  
BYE - Olympic Sharks Youth

## PREMIERSHIP BIZZARIO

Nige and Fergy here from Banana TV's Premiership Bizzario. Every week we're going to give you our views and opinions on what's going on, and off, in the English Premiership.

After our article a couple of weeks ago outlining the football corruption in Europe, this week the dirty hand of the bung turned its attention to England, in particular Bruce Gobblylar.

After being awarded libel damages against tabloid 'newspaper' The Sun, Gobs was hit with his legal bill this week for a grand total of 1 million quid.

A loss on the whole deal of 915,000 quid after receiving a damages of 85,000 quid. Nice one Bruce.

Leicester City is in trouble over...their ball boy's. Seems that penniless

Leicester are accused of dirty tricks done dirty cheap, by their ball boy's when sending the ball back into play.

The FA has told Leicester that they will now only be able to use the match ball instead of the usual multi match balls to save time. The ball boys have apparently

managed to turn this FA innovation into a time-wasting tactics. That is lateral thinking.

Manchester City issued a statement last week stating that Kevin Keegan was still the clubs manager. Where did that come from! I was expecting Keegan to quit next April if Man City were in the zone, but right now they are doing OK, and he still threatens to quit.

Chairman Bernstein has now agreed to throw some more of his hard earned into the war chest. We don't see this as Keegan's last attempt to quit...he is a serial quitter.

Tel Boy Watch - Fergy is now freakin out. Tel Boy has 8 games to go to turn it around. The Leeds United debacle got even better this week with a 2-1 defeat at home to Charlton. The flame is well and truly under Tel Boy's batty.

See you next week.

Nige and Fergy

To catch Nige and Fergy on Premiership Bizzario, their internet TV show, go to [www.bananatv.com](http://www.bananatv.com)

And click on Premiership Soccer. New episodes added each week. Don't miss it.



Premiership Bizzario



The Bizzario lads Nige and Fergy.





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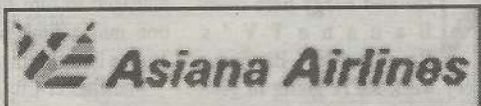
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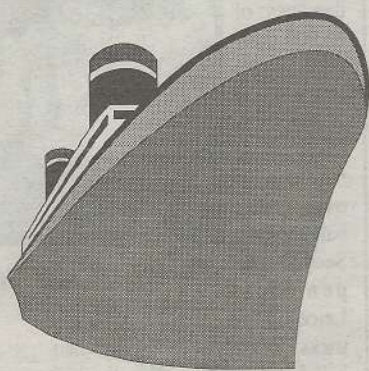
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# NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

## After Round 12

After Round 12	TOTAL							PTS	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
OLYMPIC SHARKS	11	8	2	1	1	24	13	26	6	6	0	0	12	1	5	2	2	1	12	12
PERTH GLORY	11	8	0	3	1	21	11	24	5	4	0	1	10	5	6	4	0	2	11	6
NEWCASTLE UNITED	12	5	2	5	0	19	13	17	6	4	2	0	14	4	6	1	0	5	5	9
SOUTH MELBOURNE	11	5	2	4	1	18	18	17	6	5	1	0	15	7	5	0	1	4	3	11
FOOTBALL KINGZ	11	4	4	3	1	16	11	16	6	2	3	1	8	6	5	2	1	2	8	5
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	11	4	3	3	1	17	18	15	5	2	3	0	10	5	6	2	0	4	7	9
SYDNEY UNITED	11	4	3	4	1	12	13	15	5	4	1	0	9	3	6	0	2	4	3	10
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	11	3	5	3	1	19	21	14	6	3	2	1	11	10	5	0	3	2	8	10
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	11	3	4	4	1	10	14	13	5	2	3	0	3	1	6	1	1	4	7	13
PARRAMATTA POWER	11	3	3	5	1	14	15	12	6	2	1	3	9	10	5	1	2	2	5	5
NORTHERN SPIRIT	10	3	2	5	1	14	23	9	5	2	0	3	9	13	5	1	2	2	5	10
MARCONI STALLIONS	10	2	2	6	1	9	15	8	4	1	1	2	5	7	6	1	1	4	4	8
BRISBANE STRIKERS	11	2	2	7	1	17	28	8	6	1	0	5	7	17	5	1	2	2	10	13

### FOOTBALL KINGZ

(P Urlovic 9', P Almendra 65')

### NEWCASTLE UNITED

Referee: Perry Mur. Crowd: 2,753. Venue: Ericsson Stadium.  
Cautions: C Jackson (FK) 37', J Perry (FK) 43', R deGregorio (FK) 92', S Baillie (NU) 36'.

Teams: FOOTBALL KINGZ: Utting, Taylor, Atkinson, Perry, Jackson, Burton (Beldham 86'), Almendra, Urlovic, Vlahos, deGregorio, Miyazawa.

Subs Not Used: Campbell, Turner, Bannatyne (gk).

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Beltrame, Prentice (Bingley 59'), Zoricich (Thomas 76'), Dodd (R Griffiths 59'), J Griffiths, Tsekenis, Baillie, Blagojevic, Masi, A Griffiths, Eagleton.

Subs Not Used: O'Brien (gk).

### BRISBANE STRIKERS

(K Trajanovski 12', S McLaren 80')

### SOUTH MELBOURNE

(V Coveny 52')

Referee: Mark Shield. Crowd: 1,700. Venue: Ballymore Stadium

Teams: BRISBANE STRIKERS: Kearston, Stefanutto, McKain, McLaren, Grierson, Rech (Alagich 85'), Webber, Laybutt, Trajanovski (Drake 67'), Pilic, Roche.

Subs Not Used: Carbone, Baldock (gk).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Galekovic, Iosifidis (Clarkson 84'), De Amicis, Durakovic, Liparoti, Panopoulos, Coveny, Buljan (Sekulovski 72'), Susa (Trimboli 80'), Tolios, Kisorbo.

Subs Not Used: A Webber (BS) 88', P Kisorbo (SM) 31'.

### MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

(A Pelikan 18' pen)

### PERTH GLORY

(N Mrdja 27', D Mori 33', 80', B Hassell 46')

Referee: Matthew Breeze. Crowd: about 5,000. Venue: Knights Stadium.

Cautions: M Mouhouti (PG) 13', A Gumprecht (PG) 24', B Hassell (PG) 62', L Lapsansky (MK) 27', B S Horvat (MK) 84'. Teams: MELBOURNE KNIGHTS: John, Horvat, Vargas (Sulemani 67'), Kovacic, Vasilevski, Lapsansky, Sabljak, Jolic, Biscayzacu, Pelikan, Buhic (Fa'Arado 46').

Subs Not Used: Buljubasic, Hrehoresin (gk).

PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Mouhouti, Pryce, Miller, Garcia (Coyne 63'), Faria (Horsley 81'), Gumprecht, Edgar, Hassell, Mrdja (Caceras 83'), Mori.

Subs Not Used: Matassa (gk).

### ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

### WOLLONGONG WOLVES

(N Sekulovski 8')

Referee: Angelo Nardi. Crowd: 2683. Venue: WIN Stadium.

Cautions: B Farah (WW) 26', N Sekulovski (WW) 44', G Lozanovski (ACF) 30'.

Teams: WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Crews, Farah, Stanton, Cervinski (Hefferman 88'), Castro, Lyons, Huxley, Aliffi (Babic 90'), Mennillo, Young, Sekulovski.

Subs Not Used: Whalan (gk), Austin.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE: Scarsella, Lagati, Pyte, Valkanis, Pellegrini, Veart (Karlovic 74'), Vidmar, Lozanovski, Tunbridge, Terminello (Smeltz 63'), Pelosi.

Subs Not Used: Godley (gk), Rees.

### PARRAMATTA POWER

(K Salapatis 44', B Maloney 45', A Elrich 75')

### SYDNEY UNITED

Referee: Ben Williams. Crowd: 3,004. Venue: Parramatta Stadium.

Teams: PARRAMATTA POWER: Reddy, Ceccoli, Orlic, Beachamp, O Sullivan, Maloney Thompson 67', Salapatis, Younis (Sobczyk 87'), Zorbas (Langdon 59'), Renaud, Elrich.

Subs Not Used: Vukovic (gk).

SYDNEY UNITED: Ivesa, Cacic, Pavic, Barrett, Arrarte, Mendez (Bilokapic 46'), Brain (Jedinak 68'), Angelucci (Menapi 46'), Santalab, Deur, Rudan.

Subs Not Used: Perosh (gk).

Cautions: N Orlic (PP) 30', G Mendez (SU) 34'.

## MARCONI STALLIONS

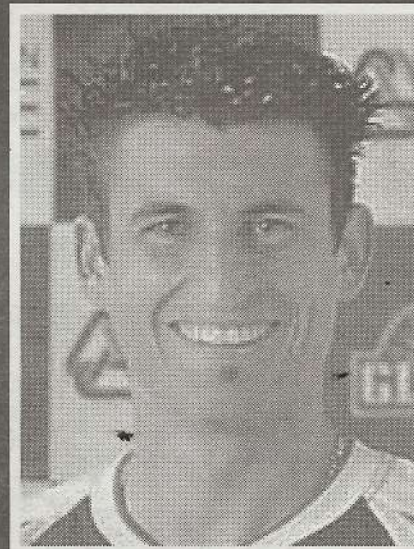
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## NORTHERN SPIRIT

(Postponed)

## BYE - OLYMPIC SHARKS

## PLAYER OF THE WEEK



### Nick Mrdja

(Perth Glory)

Defeating the Melbourne Knights four-one at Knights Stadium is by no means an easy thing to do. Mich d'Avray's men played some great football minus Bobby Despotovski however the man (Nick Mrdja) that took his spot certainly staked his claim as being one of the Glory's starting strikers alongside Damian Mori.

The 24-year-old was a constant threat for the Glory, not only having scored one of his side's four goals, but having a say in the others as well.

It's not clear as to whether Mich will start Mrdja up front with Mori this week against the Stallions however rest assured Perth certainly have the right back-up and will not lack in the scoring department with Mrdja currently hitting fine form.

Known as Glory's super sub in recent years.

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	9
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United	8
PELIKAN Anthony	Melbourne Knights	7
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	6
NGATA Heremaia	Football Kingz	6
ALMENDRA Patricio	Football Kingz	6
HASSELL Bradley	Perth Glory	6
YOUNG Stuart	Wollongong Wolves	5



# U20 Australian Squad Ready For Assault









# From The Dressing Sheds

By Mark Stavroulakis

-It's good to see current Southampton youngster Scott McDonald given the honour of skipping the Australian U20 squad in Vanuatu this month as the side prepares for a hopeful entry towards the U20 World Cup in Dubai next year.

The former Eastern Pride striker will pull on

ing into Southampton's first team squad very soon.

-Current Olympic Sharks defender Mark Byrnes is believed to be close in signing a deal with last year's Minor Premiers Perth Glory when the transfer window re-opens in January.

The Australian U23 international had originally signed a three-month deal with the Sharks and is com-

past week apart from SA's resignations has been the 'so called' rift between Aussie stars Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell.

At first, Viduka looked like the bad guy stating that Kewell did not have the spirit to captain the Socceroos and in new news has said that this rift was being addressed in the wrong manner.

Assistant Socceroo coach Graham Arnold also insisted last week that there is nothing wrong between the pair and that both will carry on their normal duties for their club and country.

Whether or not this was factual, it certainly sparked concern across Australia about the Socceroos camaraderie within the squad.

At this point in time, bickering and arguing is not what the Socceroo fans are looking for, its success and hoping to follow that yellow brick road to Germany in 2006.

-Look to see a few prominent young Olympic Sharks stars to jet off to Europe in the next month or two.

The club has an enormous talent of potential youngsters and already a number of European clubs have been alerted to players such as Greg Owens, Jade North, Wayne Shroj, Zenon Caravella, Andrew Durante and even Japanese import Hiroyuki Ishida.

-Rumours around Melbourne have former South Melbourne midfielder George Goutzioulis re-joining his old teammates at Bob Jane Stadium in January when the transfer window re-opens.

Goutzioulis has been playing for Singapore First Division outfit Tampine Rovers for the past season but fans at South could see the aggressive midfielder return to his old hunting ground.

-Wollongong Wolves youngster Leighal Dellis secured a 3-year scholarship with the State of Texas University in the US last week.

The youth striker will continue his playing career whilst finishing off his Commerce Degree in Texas.

Dellis leaves for the US on January 1st, good luck 'Delphis'!

-Just another reminder that the next three Northern Spirit matches are to be re-scheduled for the later stages of the competition as four youngsters are currently involved in international duties.

The main headline of the Jonty Richter, Alex

Wilkinson and Matthew Osman are currently in Ange's U20 squad while fellow teammate Brent Fisher will be striking for the Kiwis in December during the U20 Qualifiers.

Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna has already penned out a gruelling program for the Spirit lads with the Spirit organizing a few friendly matches against NSW State League sides.

Also, if you live near or in the Narrabeen area you will also notice that the Spirit will set camp there for a few weeks keeping fit for their first match back in the new-year.

-In PFA News, President Alex Tobin became the fifth professional footballer to be awarded the honour of PFA Life Membership, joining long-term PFA servants Kimon Taliadoros, Francis Awaritefe, Andrew Harper and Robbie Hooker.

A great achievement by the Spirit stalwart who is honing in on the 500 match milestone. While Socceroo and Leeds United star Harry Kewell was elected to the PFA Executive last week.

-SBS has come up trumps with the TV rights for the England v Socceroos match set for next February at Upton Park.

Les Murray and the crew beat off an offer made by Fox Sports last week.

Having the likes of Beckham, Owen, Campbell, Cole and co running on against the V-Bomber, Kewell, Skoko etc will certainly be a sight to see.

-The Olympic Sharks have ruled out a possible move to Leichhardt Oval this season after Olympic General Manager Peter Raskopoulos stated that the club has a three-year commitment in the Shire region and they intend to honor that.

There was talk of the Sharks shifting their

Round 15 clash against the Knights to Leichhardt Oval however this will not eventuate.

Already rumors have been circulating the press that both Leichhardt and St George Stadium had been possible venue options next season.

These rumors can now be put to bed after Rasko's comments.

-It was rather interesting to see Sydney United coach Branko Culina having a good long chat with Power Goalkeeping coach Jimmy Fraser last Sunday afternoon. The pair looked as though they were discussing views on the match at hand.

Fraser was again left out of the Power bench - a rift is certainly in the air however it was all smiles for Nick T's boys as they notched up the vital three points on the day winning three-nil.

-It was the battle of who wore the better suit at Parramatta Stadium last week. Both Branko Culina and Nick Theodorakopoulos are renowned for their dress sense ala Hugo Boss, and Armani suits so it was hard to rate who out of the pair was the better dressed?

Someone who knew all about style in clothes was former Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic.

Sporting a lovely green suit and another that possessed many numbers during his time as a National League coach, Eddie was up and about at Parramatta Stadium speaking to former Knights player and now skills coach Kresimir Marusic.

-Good to see some of the Olympic Sharks squad evident at the Power-United match with keeper Clint Bolton, ace marksman Ante Milicic and youngsters Andrew Durante and Zenon Caravella keeping a keen eye on their competition.

The lads enjoyed a week's rest from the National

League after the side went through its first bye of the season.

-Someone should tell Parramatta player Matthew Langdon to pull his shin-pads on as quickly as possible next time after the former Spirit star was given an ear-full by Power Assistant Manfred Schaefer last weekend.

Just before Langdon was called upon for a substitution during the second half, Schaefer was furious that Matthew was yet to put on the pads thus prompting a vicious outburst by the former Socceroo.

-It's good to see Kosta Salapasis thinking one step ahead of everybody else in

could see them hit a top six spot - Just goes to show how close the league is.

-Two goals for Damian Mori last week put the Perth Glory striker back on top of the National League scorer's charts with nine for the season.

Having trailed Joel Griffiths prior to the match by one goal, the ace marksman showed his class in front of goal against the Knights last week bagging a brace to hoist him as Australia's number one marksman.

-It looks as though Glory's other star striker Bobby Despotovski was not needed last week after his side smashed the Knights four-

Round 14 Fixtures	
20/12/02	Marconi Stallions v Olympic Sharks Newcastle United v Sydney United
21/12/02	Brisbane Strikers v Perth Glory
22/12/02	Parramatta Power v Wollongong Wolves Melbourne Knights v Adelaide City Force
Bye - South Melbourne	
*Football Kingz v Northern Spirit rescheduled for a later date	

the picking up the women category. The former Young Socceroo has designed his own business card with his name and number making it an easier way to give his details to potential and attractive females - that and his now trademark style of keeping his whiskers in-tact!

-Here is some sound advice to anyone wanting to punt on the National League this season. It's quite simple - DON'T! The league itself has gone crazy with so many bizarre results, its little wonder why many people are finding hard to crack the jackpot in Australian soccer. Last week the Strikers defeated South Melbourne, the Kingz beat Newcastle, Power toppled Sydney United and the Wolves claimed victory over the Force.

All these unexpected results certainly raised a few eyebrows as to how unpredictable the National League really is.

-What a difference three points will make if the Power manage to snare the three points off the Glory this week due to Perth fielding an unregistered player (Andre Gumprecht) during their first round clash.

The Power currently sit on twelve points a further three

one in Melbourne.

Fearing for his safety after his unfashionable salute against the Knights last season, Mich d'Avray's boys did the job with in form striker Nick Mrdja (who has been starting in recent weeks over Despotovski), scoring a goal - will Mrdja get the start over Bobby this weekend against the Stallions?

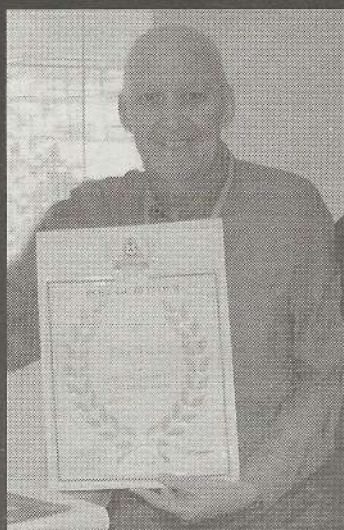
Patricio Almendra has certainly been a revelation for the Football Kingz this season.

The Chilean International has been the Kingz standout player scoring six for the year, but has also had a hand in many of the Kiwi sides other goals.

Almendra struck last week against Newcastle but not only did the 25-year-old get on the scoresheet, he also sparked up some controversy after the match as he stated to the press in broken English that Newcastle midfielder Peter Tsekenis spat on the talented midfielder.

"The photographer show me the picture after the game. Players argue with me but me no quiet. I say 'you arguing because you are no marking me well'. The players not happy with me because I make goals in the game. Maybe the players are jealous," he stated to the Sunday Star Times.

## WELL DONE 'THOMMO'



In a special ceremony held during the half-time break between the Parramatta Power & Sydney United clash, one of Australian soccer's favourite sons, former Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson was inducted into Soccer Australia's Hall of Fame for outstanding service to soccer in this country.

"This is the highest honour anyone can get and it's probably the best news I can receive."

Thomson has had the pain of battling cancer for the past year however wore a trademark smile last Sunday night after receiving his award and a standing ovation from the three thousand plus spectators at Parramatta Stadium.

His record speaks for itself:

-3-time Coach of the Year award winner (1981, 84, 85 all with Sydney City)

-3-time Championship winner with Sydney City (1980, 81, 82)

And a coaching record of 272 matches with Sydney City (1980-86) & Sydney Olympic (1987-89/90), Thomson has certainly played a pivotal role in the development of soccer in this country, especially at Socceroo level.

The Scotsman apart from coaching the Socceroos had also played a role in Australia's Olympic side alongside a successful coaching stint in the J-League a few years back.

Don't forget, it was Eddie who first spotted Leeds whiz kid Harry Kewell and pushed for the then youthful Harry to represent Australia as quick as possible.

If it weren't for 'Thommo', players such as Kewell and a few other names could to this day be representing rival countries from across the globe.

Soccer Hall of Fame Chief Ted Simmons presented the award.

ABSW extend its best wishes to Eddie and his family for a safe recovery - 'well done 'Thommo' you really are a great ambassador for the game in this country'.

the green and gold jersey for an overwhelming third time in his so far short career as international honours with the U17 Joeys (New Zealand '99) & U20 (Argentina 01) have been achieved by the lucky-star.

Having already scored seven goals in ten international appearances, McDonald is looking to impress scouts and selectors as the promising Australian hopes of crack-

ing out of contract next month.

Glory CEO Jeff Dennis has stated that there is interest for Byrnes however no deal has been agreed to as of yet.

Perth coach Mich d'Avray is looking for a possible replacement for current U20 international David Tarka who could miss a few matches throughout the season due to international duties.

-The main headline of the

Jonty Richter, Alex





# NEW SOUTH WALES SOCCER FEDERATION

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## NSW PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2002/2003



NSW Premier League

### MATCH OF THE ROUND



NSW Premier League

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	1
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	0

By Paul Goodwin

**B**onnyrigg were beaten 1-0 last season and it happened again at Lambert Park this term, but in quite different circumstances.

The manner of the Tigers win was remarkable really.

The game had been a very evenly poised one, with both defences containing lively attacks with some poise and polish.

Bonnyrigg's tall backline was very effective, with Askin Oygur outstanding and Bobby Dragas doing all that was necessary to mop up at the back; that is until his indiscretion in the 75th minute that turned the game on its ear.

Dragas had been booked a minute earlier and then inexplicably shoved Zlatko Arambasic out of the way, inside the penalty area, as the tall striker searched for a cross that appeared header his way. There was no certainty that Arambasic would reach the cross or that he would get in a telling shot, but he didn't need to. Referee Craig Pearce pointed to the spot and handed Dragas his second card in a minute which meant he had to leave the field.

A somewhat shaken Arambasic, who had scored a penalty the previous week after being brought down, stepped up to take this week's one too.

He made a real meal of it, however, allowing White Eagles' keeper Fernando Greco to save the attempt,

but instead of steering the ball to safety when it fell loose the visiting players focussed more on the excitement of the save and forgot about the ball.

It broke for A.P.I.A.'s Sam Larocca out on the right byline and when he clipped it across to the far post there was Arambasic to climb above the defence and nod the ball past a furious Greco.

Most of the excitement came in the second half, as so often seems the case these days at Lambert Park.

Former A.P.I.A. man Joe Bruni was always in the thick of things for Bonnyrigg and he caused plenty of problems for the home defence, but had little luck in front of goal.

Bob Catlin in the Tigers goal twice denied Bruni with point blank saves in succession just before the break.

The visitors, having fallen behind, sent on young Alex Asanovic and he looked very useful, getting into some good positions without being able to deliver any shots from any reasonable positions. He was forced wide by Catlin in the dying stages of the game when he had already sneaked past the Tigers defence and could then only find the side netting.

Towards the end A.P.I.A. might have had a second but first Steve Karavataki had his shot well saved by Greco and soon after, having got the better of the defence he skied his shot well over the bar.

Overall it was a skilful, fast paced match and played out in front of one of the best crowds at Lambert Park in quite some time. Neither side had any superiority and the winner seemed to have little to do with the way the game had been played; it had come from an isolated incident and may well have been the only way either side was going to score on the night.

In this case it was the Tigers night and they now head the table after two wins and a draw in their opening three games.



Andrew Clarke enjoying his role as the Tigers centre back.

**A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS . . . . . 1**  
(Zlatko Arambasic 78')

**BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES . . . . . 0**  
at Lambert Park, (Marion St), Leichhardt

**A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS:** Bob Catlin, Paul Dee, Josip Moric, Marcus Stergiopoulos, Damon Langan, Ante Moric (John Paul Boutros 79), Jeremy Brown, Sam La Rocca, Andrew Clark, Zlatko Arambasic, Steve Karavataki.  
**Subs not used:** Murray Nelson (RGK), Kelvin Foster, James Stubbs-Mills.  
**Coach:** Les De Celis

**BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES:** Fernando Greco, Askin Oygur (Javier Mancino 86), Bobby Dragas, Fernando Pellegrino, Devrim Huseyin, Tayfun Devrimol, Fred Umlil, David Harding, Shane Knight (Aleksander Asanovic 70), Kindness Agwu (Anthony Kanaan 86), Joe Bruni.  
**Subs not used:** Alex Krstich (RGK), Michael Hawrysiuk.  
**Coach:** Ljube Jancev

**Referee:** Craig Pearce

**Assistant Referees:** Keith Anderson and Andrew Kay

**Fourth Official:** Gerard Parsons

**Yellow Cards:** A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers: Nil. Bonnyrigg White Eagles: Dave Harding 43, Bobby Dragas 74 and 75, Devrim Huseyin 90.

**Red Cards:** Bonnyrigg White Eagles: Bobby Dragas 75.



Fernando Greco saved the penalty but couldn't save the game.

NEW SOUTH WALES  
SOCCER FEDERATION

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# NSW Premier League



	<b>Belconnen Blue Devils</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>St George Saints</b>	<b>0</b>

By Graham Cooke

**T**he stoppage time contribution of two substitutes gave Belconnen Blue Devils their first NSW Premier League win of the season at the McKellar Sports Centre on Saturday night.

With 91 minutes gone and the game with St George Saints apparently destined to end in a somewhat drab goal-less draw, the Devils were awarded a free kick some 10 metres clear of the penalty area.

Free kick specialist Andy Rakic, who had entered the game 15 minutes earlier, had his first effort charged down, but referee Ben Williams ruled George Maglis had encroached on the ball and ordered the kick retaken.

This time Rakic curled his shot toward the far post, goalkeeper Con Anastasiadis fumbled the ball and Clinton Larfield, on the field just two minutes, slammed it into the net.

A delighted Rakic said afterwards he was

fortunate to get the second chance. "Even then I didn't get much power behind the ball, but as it turned out it did the damage," he said.

"We've had a draw and a loss and could have won both games, so this result will get the lads' heads up."

It was a memorable end to an unremarkable game. Jaime Mauro had three clear-cut chances for Belconnen, but was off-target, and a powerful drive by Saints' George Maglis in first-half stoppage time brought the best save of the game from goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca.

St George's only other worthwhile effort was a 67th minute shot from Orhan Dincer which beat Giannasca only to deflect away off the outside of the upright, and the busiest player of the night, Belconnen's Michael Katz, must have been wondering what more he could do when his beautifully weighted cross was missed at close range by Marko Perinovic.

Devils coach Lino Fiorese said he was delighted with Larfield, who was coming back from a series of injuries. "I wanted to use him

as an impact player and he did the job perfectly," Fiorese said.

"He has been around the club for a while and I feel he can take it on from here."



Marko Perinovic was unlucky not to score for the Blue Devils.

## BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS .1

(Clinton Larfield 91)

**ST GEORGE SAINTS . . . . .0**  
at McKellar Soccer Centre, McKellar

**BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS:** Anthony Giannasca, Adrian Dowling, Matthew Cachia, Lee Pietrukowski, Jaime Mauro (Andy Rakic 75), Michael Katz, Elliott Zwangobani, Danny Macor (Clinton Larfield), David Arranz, Marko Perinovic (Matthew Valeri 84), Stephen Kemp.

**Coach:** Lino Fiorese

**ST GEORGE SAINTS:** Con Anastasiadis, Sebastian Sinozic, Evangelos Petratos, Max Sevares (Ali Salim 8), Jose Mendez, George Maglis, Jason Lai (Justin Ashley 87), Bruno Beddoni, Archie Markopoulos (Orhan Dincer 46), Simon Verrender, Luke McDougall.

**Coach:** Manny Spanoudakis

**Referee:** Ben Williams

**Assistant Referees:** Nik Schlie and David Rowell

**Fourth Official:** Bill Simeonovic

**Yellow Cards:** Belconnen: Jaime Mauro 35, Marko Perinovic 76; St George: Sebastian Sinozic 37, Bruno Beddoni 44, George Maglis 91

**Crowd:** 430

	<b>Penrith Panthers</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Blacktown City Demons</b>	<b>2</b>

By Greg Stock

**B**lacktown City returned to the winners circle on Saturday night, etching out a bruising 2-1 win in trying conditions at Andrews Road Field.

The western derby lived up to its growing reputation and produced a number of impressive moments, the least of which was three quality goals in a game which could be best described as uncompromisingly physical.

Nine yellow cards including the dismissal of Panthers midfielder Daniel McCann lay testament to the desires of both teams as they slugged it out for ninety absorbing minutes.

With their growing reputation as 'giant killers' on the line, Penrith did not take a backward step all evening and produced a number of fine moments, the least of which was when Luke Boyd scored his sides goal from a free kick.

At 1-0 down to a Luke Roodenberg header,

last seasons side would have all but thrown in the towel, but this years team seemingly have a much tougher resolve, Luke Boyd getting his foot to a goalkeeping error by John Crawley to level up the scores after 35 minutes.

It wasn't one of Crawley's greatest moments, but given the fiery nature of the occasion and the awkward playing surface, one can forgive him this once. He quite simply dropped a free kick he would have otherwise taken allowing Boyd to slip in and get a foot to the ball before it could be regathered.

But ultimately it was the Demons with a withering second half burst than won the day. With Kain Rastall and Naoki Imaaya enjoying a glut of second half possession as the match opened up, Simon Catanzaro made the most of an opportunity on the edge of the box to score what would be the winner.

Dancing his way around two Penrith defenders, he let fly with a low shot to beat the teenage keeper Kurt Van Akkels to his left-hand side. It was a stylish effort deserving of a winning goal.

While the home side did play well, the loss of Peter Bennett after just three minutes was a savage blow. Bennett was cut down in a rather dubious challenge from Catanzaro and had to leave the field with ankle troubles.

Replaced by Shane Hammond, he too had to be replaced in the second half by Daniel Gardiner, after a strong first half. Best for the winners were Ben Willard, Dion Valle and Kain Rastall.



Blacktown's Naoki Imaaya (left) with Peter Bennett in pursuit.

## PENRITH PANTHERS . . . . .1

(Luke Boyd 35)

## BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 2

(Luke Roodenberg 25;

Simon Catanzaro 55)

at Andrews Road Field, Penrith

**PENRITH PANTHERS:** Kurt Van Akkels, Daniel Wells, Luke O'Connell, Luke Boyd, Chad Lewis, Jason Sciberras, Daniel McCann, Tim O'Connell, Peter Bennett (Shane Hammond (Daniel Gardiner)), Danny Hinton (Osvaldo El Aff), Rod Hutchinson.

**Coach:** Tony Rasmussen

**BLACKTOWN CITY:** John Crawley, Ben Willard, Patrick Gatt, Damien Foxe (Steven Riches), Dane Hokin, Naoki Imaaya, Simon Catanzaro, Kain Rastall (Paul Yates), Dion Valle, Jimmy Nikas (Luciano Berbis), Luke Roodenberg.

**Coach:** Brian Brown

**Referee:** Mark Hester

**Assistant Referees:** Ken Sharp and Dave Bradshaw

**Fourth Official:** Dave Finlay

	<b>Bankstown City Lions</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Central Coast Coasties</b>	<b>0</b>

By Paul Goodwin

**C**entral Coast came away from Jensen Park on Saturday with a very satisfying 0-0 draw in a tactical battle that they clearly won.

Bankstown looked like running away with the game from the start and created a swag of chances, only for some incredibly inept finishing to let the Coasties off the hook.

Both sides defended well, but the Lions' strikers really did have an off day, while overall the Coasties showed more cohesion, especially in the second half when they were seen at their most effective.

The game was only 6 minutes old when Colin Luff found himself with only the keeper to beat, but for some reason he attempted to chip the keeper, rather than place a low shot beyond him and the ball sailed harmlessly over the bar.

In the 21st all the good work of Robbie Gomez on the right came to naught when his cross from the byline was headed against the left post by Luff with the goal gaping.

Norman Tome looked certain to score in the 29th but instead of putting another Gomez cross into the net with his head or even his chest, he managed to use a hand and received a card for his trouble and the goal was denied.

Tome also smashed a shot against the angle of the upright just three minutes into the second half and then in the 58th Tome's point-blank range header was brilliantly tipped over the bar by Coasties' keeper Ben Xerri.

Marc Falzon for the Coast almost grabbed a goal in the 74th but the ball bobbled in front of him as he raced onto it inside the box and Brad Swancott was able to gather, but the home side was really let off the hook in stoppage time.

Falzon got along the right byline and



Bryan Raeburn in control for Bankstown City Lions.

whipped over a cross for the impressive John Monie at the left post, but the youngster could not connect as he would have liked and his shot went wide of the right post instead.

Coasties' mentor John McLafferty was very pleased with his young side after the game.

"We knew what we had to do out there. I told the boys not to worry about the big names in the Bankstown side and concentrate on their own game. If we could get to half time without conceding a goal we could be more adventurous in the second half and sending on Pat Bradley after the break was always our intention. We could almost have snatched it at the finish."

Lee Sterrey was not impressed with his side's intensity.

"Of course I am disappointed," he agreed. "We had enough chances, especially in the first half to win the game easily, but some of the experienced players were woeful, especially in sight of goal."

Norman Tome worked very hard out there for us, but we still have a lot of work to do before this team is going to do its best."

## BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS . .0

## CENTRAL COAST COASTIES .0

at Jensen Park, Sefton

**BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS:** Bradley Swancott, Todd McManus, Bryan Raeburn, Richard Luksic (C), Raphael Bove (Daki Falcon 75), Norman Tome, George Issa, Colin Luff (Hassan Habbouchi 75), Robert Issa (Damien Luksic 77), Robert Gomez, Alex Trpovski.

**Coach:** Lee Sterrey

**CENTRAL COAST COASTIES:** Ben Xerri, David Brewer, Sean Matthews (C), Mitchell Cook, Aron Binskin, Chris Fleming, Liam Cameron, Marc Falzon (Nathan Byrn 86), Tom Quilty (Pat Bradley 46), James Monie (Daniel Surridge 90), Josh Maguire.

**Sub not used:** Andrew Goldman (RGK)

**Coach:** John McLafferty

**Referee:** Vic Gaudi

**Assistant Referees:** Ernie Horvath and Leonel Ramero

**Fourth Official:** Michael Johnson

**Yellow Cards:** Bankstown: Norman Tome 29, Richard Luksic 72; Central Coast: Josh Maguire 38, Chris Fleming 57, David Brewer 90





# NSW Premier League



<b>Fairfield Bulls</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Parramatta Eagles</b>	<b>0</b>

By Paul Goodwin

The Bulls bounced back from the disappointment of the loss at St George, a week earlier, to claim the prize scalp of Parramatta Eagles at Nineveh Field.

They did it by some superb team work and discipline and were boosted by the return to the side of key defender Jason Connolly and an inspired performance from Sefer Yildiz.

Parramatta dictated the play for long periods, yet had wretched luck in front of goal and they were also denied by some superb goalkeeping from Darren Moore, according to Bulls' coach Craig Sharpley.

His opposite number, John Calleja, could not really fault his side other than their poor finishing, but they played well in his book and he just felt luck deserted them on the day.

The only goal of the game came after the

visitors had been awarded a free kick thirty yards out from goal.

It was struck against the defensive wall by Michael Kladis and when the ball broke free for Fairfield it was quickly fed up field by Connolly to Adam Snyder.

Matt Borg peeled away into some open space and when Snyder managed to knock the ball over, Borg slammed it against the post and eventually in with his head as he lay on the ground after executing the shot. It was Borg's goal alright!

Yildiz and Connolly made many fine tackles in the match and this laid the groundwork for the win when it eventually came, according to Sharpley.

Borg also had a one-on-one with Eagles' defender Paul O'Grady and that tackle denied another goal, but most of the hard luck stories came at the other end.

Parramatta's appeals for a 10th minute penalty for handball were waved away, after the ball had been played into the box by Anthony Mittiga and it had appeared that



Sefer Yildiz had an inspired performance for the Bulls.

Arthur Diles had used an arm to stop the ball's progress.

Adam Anderson had another one-on-one, but tame finishing let him down and a good ball across from Howarth, that eluded everyone very late in the match, could also have squared things up.

Also in the second half Geoff Dwyer hit the post for Parramatta, but only after a first half Tim Gledhill header had hit the bar at the other end and Matt O'Shea's shot had beaten all but the far post and by a mere coat of paint at that, after being hit from a tight angle out on the right.

Fairfield's points, but both coaches felt pleased with their own team's performances.

**FAIRFIELD BULLS . . . . . 1**  
(Borg 55')  
**PARRAMATTA EAGLES . . . . 0**  
at Nineveh Field, Edensor Park

**FAIRFIELD BULLS:** Darren Moore, Jason Connolly, Arthur Diles, Adam Snyder, Stewart Van Bentum, Marc Hoenselaars, Mathew Borg (Sargoon Gewargis 88), Robert Angievski (Leigh Brown 87), Ismael Arrarte, Adam Peaty, Sefer Yildiz (Simon Hutchings 70).

**Coach:** Craig Sharpley

**PARRAMATTA EAGLES:** Jason Holmes, Michael Kladis, Geoff Dwyer, Paul O'Grady, Mark Reveley, Mauricio Islas (Anthony Mondello 75), Anthony Mittiga (Geoff Howarth 60), Matt O'Shea, Ben Delicata, Adam Anderson, Tim Gledhill (John Kelso 85).

**Sub not used:** 22 Liam Curran (RGK) Greg Jackson

**Coach:** John Calleja

**Referee:** Simon Przydacz

**Assistant Referees:** Wayne Spagnol and Amelia Morris.

**Fourth Official:** Michael Collins.

**Yellow Cards:** Fairfield Bulls: Adam Snyder 40; Parramatta Eagles: Anthony Mittiga 25, Michael Kladis 70

<b>C'bury-M'ville Olympic</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rockdale City Suns</b>	<b>1</b>

By Greg Stock

After a couple of disappointing results in the opening two rounds of the competition, Rockdale bounced back to the winners circle with a hard fought 1-0 win over Canterbury at Henson Park.

Putting aside their two previous losses where they conceded late winners, the Suns dug deep and with substitute Robert Todorovski providing the inspiration, did enough when and where it counted.

With pressure on coach Mile Todorovski building after some indifferent performances, it was a team effort that really built the win.

Playing a no frills brand of football in the windy conditions, Rockdale maintained the pressure by controlling the ball and the speed of the match, starving the home side of the ball from long periods of the game.

The best chances of a bruising first half fell

to the Suns where Spase Najdoski posted a couple of rare misses from inside the penalty box.

With Canterbury beginning to make inroads early in the second half, enter Suns substitute Robert Todorovski.

Having left the club in rather controversial circumstances last year, Todorovski regained the faith of the club's supporters putting in a sensational forty minutes of football after being introduced for the injured Eddie Wong.

Not only did he score what would turn out to be the winning goal, he also added some much needed bite to the Suns go forward, harassing the opposition defenders into mistakes and exerting that touch of class that had been lacking in the previous couple of games.

His goal came just at the right time and was an absolute cracker. The hardworking Tony Ju broke down the left-hand side and sent in a pinpoint cross to the back post.

Todorovski met the looping cross like an express train smashing his header past a strand-

ed Ivan Necevski in the 'Berries goal into the top left hand corner. It was a header of pure brute force, but a much needed goal that seemed to inspire the Suns to withstand the home side fightback in the final twenty minutes.

Try as they might, Canterbury did have their best chances late in the game where substitute Leigh Gunn and Alan Picken both missed straight forward efforts with all but the goal-keeper well beaten.



Alan Picken leaps highest for the Berries.

**C'BURY-M'VILLE OLYMPIC . . 0**  
**ROCKDALE CITY SUNS . . . . 1**  
(Robert Todorovski 57')  
at Henson Park, Marrickville

**CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE:** Ivan Necevski, Sasa Utjesenovic, Michael West, Cormack Begley, Paul Bourke (Leigh Gunn), Alan Picken, Aheleas Kotsopoulos, George Nohra (Con Paradisis), Ben Price, Michael O'Reilly (Akwas Agyei), John Kyriazopoulos.

**Coach:** Greg Woodhouse.

**ROCKDALE CITY SUNS:** Peter Trajceviski, Eddie Wong (Robert Todorovski), Ghenadie Costiuc, Richard Plesa, David Brickell, Peter Apoleviski, Ben Deighan, Spase Najdoski (Sasha Tiroviski), Denis Alilovic, Malcolm Bideau, Hong Yuel Ju.

**Coach:** Mile Todorovski.

**Referee:** Ray Isaacs

**Assistant Referees:** Adrian Tampin and Heidi Breeze.

**Fourth Official:** Collin Stock.

## FROM THE SIDELINES By Greg Stock

\*Penrith Panthers midfielder Peter Bennett has hit the headlines this week announcing his plans to sign a one year with an as yet unnamed S-League club. The 32 year old will leave the Panthers after Christmas and is due to start his preseason training in Singapore on December 31st.

"We are very sorry to lose Peter from our ranks" said Panthers coach Tony Rasmussen. "He has been a tremendous asset for us on the park and around the club, but we understand that this is his chance to earn some good dollars and play top flight football in Asia. On behalf of the club and our supporters we wish him all the best."

On a sad note, Bennett turned his ankle in his side's 2-1 loss on the weekend and may well have played his final game for the Panthers this season.

\*Some bad news for the Demons with Damien Foxe back on the injured list with a knee strain after last Saturday's 2-1 win over Penrith.

The newly engaged defender was involved in a blocked tackle that saw him strain the knee that was the cause of his off-season reconstruction.

Coach Brian Brown is confident that with some rest and rehabilitation, he might only be out for a week or two at worst. Teammate Paul Yates continues to improve every week and is pushing for a spot in the starting eleven.

\*Sutherland coach John Turner has extended an open invitation to any player wishing to be a part of his Winter Super League side for season 2003.

Trial dates are Tuesdays and Thursdays for the next two weeks at Seymour Shaw Park for a 7pm start.

\*New Hakoah coach Tony Dunn is back from his overseas sojourn and hard at work with his side in preparation for the National Maccabi games in Melbourne.

The games will take place between Christmas (Ed: Greg, just a quick point. People of the Jewish faith don't celebrate Christmas) and New Year with the NSW versus Victoria game set down as the curtain raiser to the South Melbourne National League match on Sunday December 29th at 4pm.

Taking over from former coach John Turner, Dunn is still confident he can assemble a very competitive squad with the likes of John Pillemer and Greg Fuchs expected to form the basis of a tough outfit.

\*Canterbury-Marrickville defender Tom Maric has been conspicuous by his absence from the starting lineup in recent weeks owing to a toe injury.

The former Sydney United and Fairfield Bulls defender was suspended for the first two weeks and was all set to make an appearance this week before a toe injury saw him miss yet another week. Maric is hopeful the injury will heal in time for the Berries away trip to the Serbian Centre.

\*Some trouble at A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt training last week with striker Zlatko Arambasic and midfielder Michael Galluzzo crossing paths.

A nasty head clash was the result with Arambasic suffering a badly cut melon while Galluzzo sported a black eye for his troubles.

Not what coach Les De Celis would have wanted but with his side getting the points last week and sitting on top of the ladder, I'm sure he won't be complaining.

\*Another couple of nominations for the Archie Markopoulos Haircut of the week award. The field is really hotting up with two of the Panthers favourite sons making their presence felt.

Goalkeeper Chad Taylor is currently sporting what can only be described as a 'Bart Simpson' style look while midfielder Daniel McCann has decided to reinvent himself with the Kojak style.

While Taylor missed the Blacktown game last week with injury, McCann suffered the wrath of referee Mark Hester, and received an early shower for a second yellow card, much to the dismay of the Panthers faithful.

Another late breaking nominee is Blacktown City Demons goalscorer Simon Catanzaro with a blonde mohawk-mullet.

More nominations to the usual address; gregstock@optusnet.com.au





# NSW Premier League



## ROUND 3 RESULTS

### FIRST GRADE

<b>Belconnen Blue Devils</b> .....1 (C Larfield 92')	<b>Penrith Panthers</b> .....1 (L Boyd 35')	<b>Bankstown City Lions</b> .....0
<b>St George Saints</b> .....0	<b>Blacktown City Demons</b> .....2 (L Roodenburg 25', S Catanzaro 55')	<b>Central Coast Coasties</b> .....0
<b>Fairfield Bulls</b> .....1 (M Borg 55')	<b>Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic</b> ..0	<b>A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers</b> .....1 (Z Arambasic 78')
<b>Parramatta Eagles</b> .....0	<b>Rockdale City Suns</b> .....1 (R Todorovski 57')	<b>Bonnyrigg White Eagles</b> .....0

### UNDER 19

<b>Belconnen Blue Devils</b> .....3 (R McCormack 41/86', M Ravanparsa 85')	<b>Penrith Panthers</b> .....2 (R Ioacanis 20', G Dowling 76')	<b>Bankstown City Lions</b> .....1 (B Reyes 40')
<b>St George Saints</b> .....0	<b>Blacktown City Demons</b> .....3 (B Stephan 6', J Simpson 37', L Newton 88')	<b>Central Coast Coasties</b> .....1 (B Murrell 55')
<b>Fairfield Bulls</b> .....1 (Berbis 57')	<b>Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic</b> ..1 (Fichera 75')	<b>A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers</b> .....2 (M Musumeci 49', Foti 75')
<b>Parramatta Eagles</b> .....6 (Kukucka 12'/117/166', Lugudi 46', Zahra 63'/82')	<b>Rockdale City Suns</b> .....3 (Velegrinis 20', Malakovski 3', Srbinovski 60')	<b>Bonnyrigg White Eagles</b> .....0

#### FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Central Coast Coasties	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
Penrith Panthers	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Belconnen Blue Devils	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Blacktown City Demons	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Bankstown City Lions	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Parramatta Eagles	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Fairfield Bulls	3	1	1	1	4	6	4
St George Saints	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Rockdale City Suns	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
C/bury M/ville Olympic	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

#### UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	3	3	0	0	5	3	9
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Parramatta Eagles	3	2	1	0	9	3	7
Belconnen Blue Devils	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Rockdale City Suns	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Penrith Panthers	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
C/bury M/ville Olympic	3	1	0	2	8	7	3
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
St George Saints	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Central Coast Coasties	3	0	1	2	3	11	1
Bankstown City Lions	3	0	1	2	2	11	1
Fairfield Bulls	3	0	0	3	2	11	0

## NEXT ROUND

### ROUND 4 FIRST GRADE

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Blacktown City Demons	v Fairfield Bulls	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Central Coast Coasties	v Penrith Panthers	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	Pluim Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v C'bury-M'ville Olympic	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v Bankstown City Lions	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	John Crehan Park
Parramatta Eagles	v Belconnen Blue Devils	Sun 15 Dec	6.00pm	Melita Stadium
St George Saints	v A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	Sun 15 Dec	6.00pm	St George Stadium

### UNDER 19

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Blacktown City Demons	v Fairfield Bulls	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	Gabbie Stadium
Central Coast Coasties	v Penrith Panthers	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	Pluim Park
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v C'bury-M'ville Olympic	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v Bankstown City Lions	Sat 14 Dec	7.00pm	John Crehan Park
Parramatta Eagles	v Belconnen Blue Devils	Sun 15 Dec	6.00pm	Melita Stadium
St George Saints	v A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	Sun 15 Dec	6.00pm	St George Stadium

## TOP GOALSCORERS

- 2 - Zlatko Arambasic (APIA-Leichhardt), Rod Hutchinson (Penrith Panthers), Shane Knight (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Ante Moric (APIA-Leichhardt), Marko Perinovic (Belconnen Blue Devils).
- 1 - Adam Anderson (Parramatta Eagles), Robert Angievski (Fairfield Bulls), Ismael Arrarte (Fairfield Bulls), Bruno Beddoni (St. George), Daniel Borg (Parramatta Eagles), Mathew Borg (Fairfield Bulls), Jon-Paul Boutros (APIA-Leichhardt), Luke Boyd (Penrith Panthers), Joe Bruni (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Simon Catanzaro (Blacktown City), Mitchell Cook (Central Coast), Mark Falzon (Central Coast), Michael Hawrysiuk (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), George Issa (Bankstown City), Jason Lal (St. George), Clinton Larfield (Belconnen Blue Devils), Jose Mendes (St. George), James Monie (Central Coast), Michael O'Riley (Canterbury-Marrickville), Alan Picken (Canterbury-Marrickville), Luke Roodenberg (Blacktown City), Jason Sciberras (Penrith Panthers), Robert Todorovski (Rockdale City Suns), Norman Tome (Bankstown City Lions), Luke Tomich (Fairfield Bulls), Simon Verrender (St. George)

For all the latest news, results and information check out [www.nswpremierleague.com](http://www.nswpremierleague.com)





# NSW Premier League



## ROUND 4 PREVIEW



**Blacktown City Demons**

VS

**Fairfield Bulls**



Saturday 14th December, 2002 – 7.00pm  
GABBIE STADIUM, BLACKTOWN

The Demons broke through at last when they won a bruising encounter at Penrith 2-1 and they make their first appearance of the season at The Gabby here.

They are looking for a better start than in the previous campaign and the results so far, while far from spectacular, do indicate that things are a little better this term.

The loss of the suspended David Reid for the last couple of games has hampered them, but he is expected to come back in here to provide more zip in the attacking manoeuvres.

Fairfield often starts the season

slowly too and with a crippling injury list coach Craig Sharpley is promising no early points haul until the squad gets back to full strength and fitness.

That promise did not allow for the tremendous morale boosting win at Nineveh Field against the Premiers, Parramatta Eagles.

The return of Jason Connolly was a huge fillip for coach Craig Sharpley and his men.

Coupled with a great performance from Sefer Yildiz

Especially pleasing for the coach was the goal from Matthew Borg who had been out of form for a while

and needed the confidence boost.

With this win behind them the Bulls must fancy their chances against a Blacktown side that so far has been scratchy at best.

The Gabby Stadium has had a lot of work done to the surface since the conclusion of the Winter competition and should provide a perfect canvas for a very good spectacle. The outcome of this fixture maybe a key indicator of how the season may pan out.

Connolly will relish playing against his former club and is sure to put in a big performance.



**Central Coast Coasties**

VS

**Penrith Panthers**



Saturday 14th December, 2002 – 7.00pm  
PLUIM PARK, LISAROW

Still unbeaten after three outings the Coasties fear no one and their approach of concentrating on their own performance and playing to their own strengths is obviously paying dividends.

The team has really settled well after a solid preparation and if it has a fault it is certainly not patience. It has that in abundance.

Last week at Bankstown the weeks of hard work paid off with a hard earned point and the fluent nature of the team's approach work was excellent once the defence had nullified a star studded opposition attack.

This week is a lot different. Visitors Penrith do not have stars. They are more like the Coasties in that respect. They have a strong work ethic, but unlike the Coasties they have a mounting injury list and that may count against them at Pluim Park this Saturday night.

Keeper Chad Taylor failed to recover from his head clash with Parramatta's Daniel Borg the previous week and it will be interesting to see if he can reclaim his spot this week.

Ben Wright also had to sit out the Blacktown game, but the main problem lies with Peter Bennett who was helped off at Andrews Road in the

derby clash and looked the worse for wear. Several others are also in doubt.

If the Coasties are to extend their unbeaten opening to the season then they may need a different approach in this game which is sure to be keenly contested and very tight. Pat Bradley may well start the game and the lively John Monie and Josh Maguire should be able to benefit accordingly.

The coverage of the Coasties in the local media this season has been phenomenal. If the club can cash in on this with bumper crowds and can keep the unbeaten run going then there seems no reason why they cannot attract the supporters.



**Bonnyrigg White Eagles**

VS

**C'bury-M'ville Olympic**



Saturday 14th December, 2002 – 7.00pm  
SERBIAN CENTRE, BONNYRIGG

It's not often that Bonnyrigg lose two games in succession and that spells danger with a capital 'd' for the visiting Berries.

A shock loss to A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt sees Ljube Jancev's charges slip to fourth on goal difference, eager to return to a top three spot with a win this week.

"We have been playing well in recent weeks," said striker Joe Bruni, "both our first two games we fought back from behind and that gives us a lot of confidence."

To a large extent we are still finding our feet but with each match under our belt we are starting to play

better and better and should be at our best this week."

Bonnyrigg will be without Bobby Dragas who was given a early shower in last weekend loss their could be some competition for first team spot in the Eagles line-up.

Despite Canterbury's off-season recruiting campaign, they are yet to post a win in three starts and have slid to the bottom of the Premier League table.

Coach Greg Woodhouse is expected to swing some changes this week and introduce Con Paradis and Tom Marie to the starting in a bid to shake up his team.

A lack of potency in their front third is a worrying sign, having scored just twice in 270 minutes of football.

Canterbury have won just two of their past twelve road trips to the Serbian Centre, and with Woodhouse being a former Bonnyrigg coach, he would like nothing better than to walk away with all three points.

But given that their last win was back in 1999 when they etched out a hard fought 3-2 win in trying conditions, history doesn't appear to be their best friend, with a Bonnyrigg victory the likely result.



**Rockdale City Suns**

VS

**Bankstown City Lions**



Sunday 14th December, 2002 – 7.00pm  
JOHN CREHAN PARK, CRINGILA

The derby between these two teams is always a prominent feature on the NSW football calendar and after an absence of six seasons it returns to top-flight football.

The last time these two proud clubs met was in the 2000 Winter Super League season, but prior to that it was 1996 when Rockdale spanked the Lions 5-1.

This will be just the second Premier League game at John Crehan Park in Cringila and given the status of both sides, this should be a tremendous clash.

Rockdale have moved off the bot-

tom of the competition table with a 1-0 win over Canterbury last week and despite not playing their best football, the renewed confidence from the victory is sure to have them fired up for a big performance.

Rob Todorovski put in a cameo second half effort that is sure to have coach Mile Todorovski thinking of reshuffling his line-up to include the livewire striker, possibly at the expense of Eddie Wong who is still troubled by a hamstring strain.

Defender Vádim Mikoutski has suffered a setback at training and could still be a few weeks away, Steve Dimitrievski and Trent Worrall

expected to remain on the bench. Bankstown City still appears to be a little underdone and were unable to take their chances against the Coasties last weekend.

Coach Lee Sterrey readily admits his side is still a month away from their best, forwards Colin Luff and Norman Tome still trying to find their feet. The absence of the injury Glenn Moore and Todd Macacus is still of concern for the Lions.

Fans should keep an eye out for teenager Hassam Habbouchi who has played so well when coming off the Lions bench in recent weeks.



**Parramatta Eagles**

VS

**Belconnen Blue Devils**



Sunday 15th December, 2002 – 6.00pm  
MELITA STADIUM, SOUTH GRANVILLE

The defending champions still remain one of the competitions favoured sides despite a mixed start to the season.

Locked in a group of seven teams on four points, the Eagles really need to start putting together some wins to make a run for the top three.

Coach John Calleja was disappointed with his side's result last week when they did everything but score against Fairfield, prompting him to consider a couple of changes.

"Our biggest troubles last week were in front of goal" said Calleja, "and that is a worrying trend that has

to stop. We missed six great chances last week and if we are to trouble the top sides we need to increase our conversion rate, else we'll end up down the wrong end of the table."

Striker Tim Gledhill is in doubt with a hamstring problem while Paul O'Grady made a welcome return to the fold last week after returning from a stint in Singapore.

A possible conclusion to the Eagles line-up is Daniel Kukucka who scored a hat-trick the previous week in the Under 19's 6-1 drubbing of Fairfield. This makes his total after three rounds five goals in the lower

grade.

Melita Stadium has not been a happy hunting ground for Belconnen, having lost their two previous road trips there. Their overall form against the Eagles is a little better with one win and a draw from four meetings but realistically the visitors are going to be up against it, with Parramatta seemingly growing an extra leg at home.

After a dour injury time win against St George last week, it's hard to see the visitors going home with anything other than a point in what shapes up as a lively encounter.



**St George Saints**

VS

**A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers**



Sunday 15th December, 2002 – 6.00pm  
ST GEORGE STADIUM, ROCKDALE

St George did all the hard work at Belconnen only to concede the winner in stoppage time, but back at their own stadium they should be optimistic of a better showing on Sunday.

A.P.I.A. has now remained unbeaten, one of only two sides that can claim that and this after only three rounds.

A.P.I.A. had Tony Tesoro missing last week against Bonnyrigg due to suspension but he will be back for this one.

The A.P.I.A. strikers have not really fired yet. Arambasic has scored twice, but both those goals came after penalties had been award-

ed. Steve Karavatakis still looks short of his best and the side has been doing its best work in the middle of the park where Marcus Stergiopoulos and Sam Larocca have been dominant.

Their distribution and that of Ante Moric has been a major factor in the Apia side staying unbeaten, but if more goals do not come soon from the others, given that Moric grabbed two at Fairfield and the side has only knocked in five so far then there could be problems later.

The Saints may have to do without injured duo Max Sevares and Simon Verrender. Both failed to finish the game at Belconnen and coach

Manny Spanoudakis will be hoping to cover for both.

The Saints have two former Apia players in their ranks, Zoki Adioski and Jason Lal, while ace marksman Bruno Beddoni was at A.P.I.A. a decade ago and keeper Con Anastasiadis also had a spell at Lambert Park a couple of seasons ago.

The last time the teams met here St George startled their opponents with a 3-2 win to end a long losing trot The 3-0 win over Fairfield looks a very good result now in the light of other results just in and maybe Apia will find it just as tough to win this year as well?





# Women's National Soccer League



## NORTHERN NSW PRIDE .5

(Lauren Colthorpe 18', Rose Dunne 24', Ashley Wilson 43', Amber Neilson 70', Lorissa Stevens 75')

## NSW SAPPHIRES .....4

(Catherine Cannuli 1', Michelle Carney 3', Jo Burgess 23', Kylie Ledbrook 92+')

at Jack McLaughlan Oval, Newcastle

**I**n the battle for NSW women's soccer bragging rights, the NSW Sapphires ended up on the wrong end of a 5-4 scoreline against traditional rivals Northern NSW Pride at Jack McLaughlan Oval.

The Sapphires were actually lucky to make the trip North to Edgeworth as the bush fire crisis that was gripping Sydney over the previous week had forced closures of the F3 Freeway on many occasions in the lead-up to the fixture.

Fortunately, the roads were clear, and the Sapphires arrived ready to show that they deserved the mantle of top team in the state. And show they did with two goals in the opening three minutes of the game, putting NNSW on the back foot early.

The first came when Sapphires striker, Catherine Cannuli, faked around her defender before unleashing a left footed shot from just inside the box across the goal to find the top-right side of the net. Two minutes later, the Sapphires second goal came courtesy of a Cannuli corner from the left that was swung sweetly into the box.

The NNSW defence mistimed the clearance and the ball found its way to an unmarked Michelle Carney on the 6-yard box who calmly slotted the ball home from close range.

The Sapphires were off to a dream start with their new 4-3-3 formation and their attention may have drifted to the following week's grand final against Queensland thinking that the job was done.

But Northern had other ideas. This was their last game of their campaign and there was no way they were going to hand the result on a platter to their rivals.

The first step in the Pride comeback came in the 18th minute when left-midfielder Lorissa Stevens beat Thea Slatyer, before cutting the ball back across the box to an unmarked Lauren Colthorpe who slotted the ball past Dimitra Poulous in the Sapphires goal.

The defensive lapse served as a wake-up to the Sapphires, who then went back to the job and began to applied the pressure again.

The third Sapphires goal came soon-after when the Pride attempted to play out from the left but had the pass intercepted by NSW Captain

Taryn Rockall. Rockall drew the left back before releasing an overlapping Jo Burgess who shot from the wide right.

Northern NSW keeper, Alison Logue, was unable to make the save in the field of play and carried the ball over the line to restore the Sapphires two goal buffer.

Again the NSW psyche began to wander, because one minute after the restart, the Pride pegged another goal back as a result of a failed NSW clearance which found the feet of Pride midfielder, Rose Dunne. Dunne chanced a long-range speculator, which carried over Poulous into the net to bring the deficit back to one-goal.

The Sapphires were again shaken back into action, but this time there was no goal forthcoming. In fact two minutes before the half-time break NNSW were awarded a free-kick outside the Sapphires penalty area when Thea Slatyer fouled Lorissa Stevens. From the ensuing play, Ashley Wilson was found unmarked behind the NSW defence to level the scores.



Catherine Cannuli opened the scoring in the first minute.

70th minute when the Pride took the lead after some good play on the left allowed Hayley Crawford to lay off to Amber Nielson on the edge of the 18-yard box who unleashed a screamer that rocketed into the NSW net. This was the killer blow that caused the Sapphires heads to drop.

The second half began with the Sapphires reverting back to their more conventional formation with Anissa Tann returning to the centre of defence, flanked by Slatyer and Kath Collins. Defender Lisa Gilbert was replaced by former Pride player, Danielle Small who provided extra personnel up front for the Sapphires.

The opening 15 minutes of the second half saw both sides put on quite a footballing demonstration with some great build-up and shots to compliment the efforts. But the arm-wrestle was broken in the

The future grand-finalists were unable to lift themselves for an equaliser. NNSW capitalised on this lapse and five minutes later found themselves two goals ahead when Lorissa Stevens curled the Prides fifth goal in from long-range.

Since this was their season finale, the Pride had nothing to lose and everything to gain. They showed signs of the Northern of old and at times outplayed their more fancied opposition. To the Sapphires credit, they did not give up, and were rewarded with a consolation goal in time added-on when Sarah Walsh took the ball down the right to beat Rachel Abbey, and also drew sweeper Tracey Baker before cutting the ball back from the by-line to Kylie Ledbrook on the 6-yard box. Ledbrook knocked the ball past Logue to make the scoreline a little more respectable.

The result was not the ideal preparation for the Sapphires who now face Queensland Sting in the WNSL Grand Final. Although, NSW Captain, Taryn Rockall was philosophical about the defeat. "What we have to do now is get this (the result) out of our heads, go back to the drawing board and focus on the task at hand. I suppose for me, it's better to lose this week and win next week rather than the other way round," said Rockall.

"Our goal at the start of the season was to win the Grand Final, and nothing has changed. We know we can do it, we proved that 3 weeks ago. All we need to do now is do the business on the park" concluded Rockall.

### NORTHERN NSW PRIDE

1. Alison Logue, 2. Lorissa Stevens, 3. Richard Alley, 6. Amber Neilson, 7. Lauren Colthorpe, 8. Rose Dunne, 10. Hayley Craneded, 11. Katie Gill, 12. Ashley Wilson 16. Mel Cotts, (Shepherd 57'), 17. Tracey Baker.

Substitutes: 5. Meegan Shepherd, 13. Harmonie Atwill, 14. Debra Searl, 41. Aimie Neilson.

### NSW SAPPHIRES:

16. Dimitra Poulos, 2. Thea Slatyer, 4. Kathryn Collins (Todd 84'), 5. Lisa Gilbert (Small 46'), 6. Anissa Tann, 8. Joanne Burgess, 10. Taryn Rockall, 11. Michelle Carney, 13. Catherine Cannuli (Walsh 59'), 14. Nicole Kimber, 17. Leah Blaney.

Substitutes: 1. Cassandra Kell, 7. Kylie Ledbrook, 18. Danielle Small, 19. Sarah Walsh, 20. Hayley Todd.

Referee: Stuart Wolte

Assistant Referee: Adam Francis and Dean Garland

Fourth Official: Steven Bird

## WNSL MATCH REPORTS

By Janene Mar

### STING NEVER IN DOUBT

#### QUEENSLAND STING .....3

(Lana Harch 40', Jessica Mitchell 48', Pam Grant 90')

#### VICTORIA VISION .....0

at Gold Park, Toowoomba

**Q**ueensland Sting are confirmed to host the 14 December WNSL grandfinal after firmly securing first position on points with a sound defeat over last-placed Victoria Vision 3-0 in Toowoomba, a dominant performance throughout.

After several near misses, Queensland took the lead five minutes before half-time, Toowoomba local Lana Harch fittingly opening the 'maroon' account, on the end of a corner kick.

Sting scored another three minutes into the second half, a well-hit shot fumbled by the Victorian keeper allowing Jessica Mitchell to slot home

the crumbs. Despite the goal, Vision settled into their game better but still had only a rare chance in attack. Queensland finished off the job with a third goal in the dying minutes, a corner falling for Bryony Duus whose attempt was touched into goal by teammate Pam Grant.

**Sting** - Nichols, Hohnke, Garven, Canham, Beaumont, Garriock, McShea (Duus 83), Castelanelli (Reed 56), Harch (Thomas 80), Mitchell (Grant 78), Dawney (Ferguson 56).

**Vision** - Barbieri, Smith (Thornton 81), Groenewald (Terek 62), Black (Nicolaci 73), Totsidis, Lamb, Fitzgerald, Bisby, Humble (Koutrouvelis 57), Farrugia, Maza.

### ECLIPSE CLAIM THIRD SPOT

#### CANBERRA ECLIPSE .....2

(Tal Karp 45m, Peita-Claire Hepperlin 59m)

#### ADELAIDE SENSATION .....0

at Marden Sports Complex, Adelaide

**C**anberra Eclipse, reigning champions, bounced back from their disappointment of missing a grandfinal berth to secure third place ahead of their opponent by beating Adelaide Sensation 2-0.

Canberra made better use of possession and could have won by more although the first half was lacking in highlights. Adelaide created few clear chances on goal against a solid opponent.

Eclipse took the lead shortly before the break when awarded a penalty kick. Adelaide keeper Leanne Trimboli saved Tal Karp's spot kick but the midfielder scored by following up on the loose rebound.

Canberra continued to attack in the second half led by the exploits of Sacha Wainwright up the left flank and were rewarded in the 59th minute with a goal to seal the win. Kristyn Swaffer's floated freekick was neatly controlled by Peita-Claire Hepperlin and finished with the outside of the foot.

**Sensation** - Trimboli, May, Benoist (Burgess 81), Katianos, Hodge (Walsh 62), Blacker, Stocco, Harrison (Madden 81), Slater, Balomenos (Sabljak), De Vanna (Gubbins 85).

**Eclipse** - Beattie, Swaffer, Borucinski (Parker 91), Taylor (Staniforth 81), Davies, Wainwright, Karp, P Hepperlin, Rukavina (Brew 78), Wilson, Munoz.

## WNSL TABLE AFTER ROUND 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
QUEENSLAND STING	10	8	-	2	26	7	19	24
NSW SAPPHIRES	10	5	3	2	21	14	7	18
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	10	4	4	2	14	8	6	16
ADELAIDE SENSATION	10	3	3	4	14	20	-6	12
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	10	3	1	6	18	28	-10	10
VICTORIA VISION	10	1	1	8	5	21	-16	4

### LEADING GOALSCORERS 2002/03 (As at End of Round Ten)

9	Lisa DE VANNA	Adelaide Sensation
5	Kate McSHEA	Queensland Sting
4	Taryn ROCKALL	NSW Sapphires
4	Katie GILL	Northern NSW Pride
4	Ashley WILSON	Northern NSW Pride
4	Tal KARP	Canberra Eclipse
4	Amber NEILSON	Northern NSW Pride

### WNSL 2002/03 GRANDFINAL

#### QUEENSLAND STING v NSW SAPPHIRES

SAT 14 DECEMBER

7.00PM

CARMICHAEL PARK, BRISBANE





# NSW Soccer Federation



## J-P's Coaching Tips

### Hi Everyone,

This week we will look at planning a training session, with the theme of keeping possession in mind.

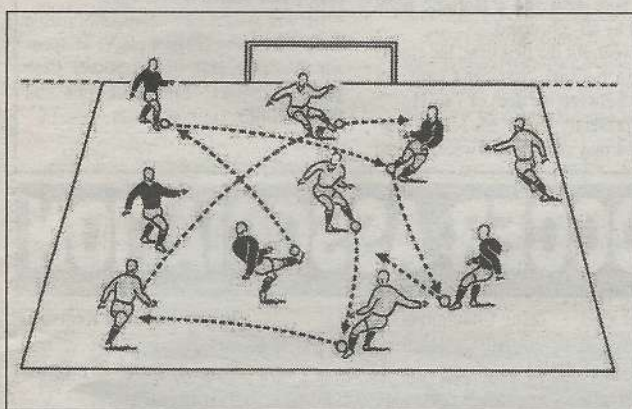
To retain possession you must work on passing and movement off the ball. It is also very important that the player on the ball has the ability to keep the ball moving.

The player has a couple of options to achieve this; by passing or keeping the ball out of tackling range (dribbling in spaces).

Before every training session, you, as a coach, must know what you would like to work on, before you start the session. Once you have decided on the theme, you can spend time planning your session. Remember you must make your activities progressive and achieve a desired outcome.

In this example, I will break my session up into 5 sections as follows:

#### 1) Warm Up and Stretching — 15 minutes



A simple warmup activity where your squad is split into two teams (in this case light and dark).

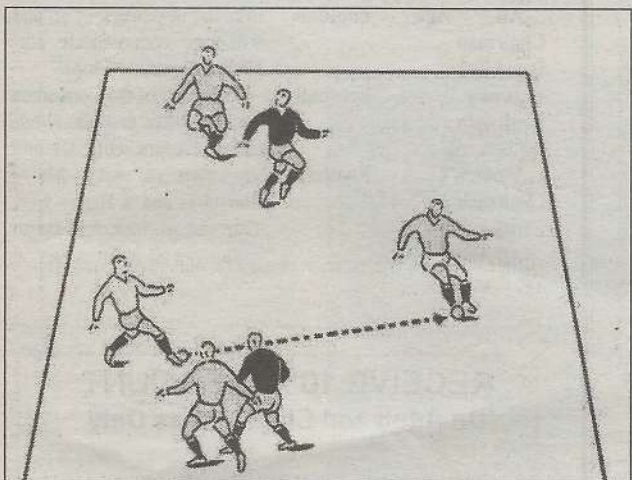
The players on each side are given a number in a sequence (1,2,3...) and the object of the activity is for players to pass the ball to their teammates in the correct sequence to get pass the ball.

Players are encouraged to continually move around within the area and call for the ball and call who they are passing to.

After the players develop a light sweat, go into a set of stretches.

Make sure that you cover all the main muscles groups and any specific stretches that may be needed for the remainder of the session.

#### 2) Condition Games — 4 v 2 — 20 minutes



The purpose of this drill is to train running off the ball and covering.

The object of the game is for the 4 players to keep the ball away from the 2 defenders.

To get the most out of the players, be sure to rotate the defenders regularly to ensure that they don't fatigue too quickly.

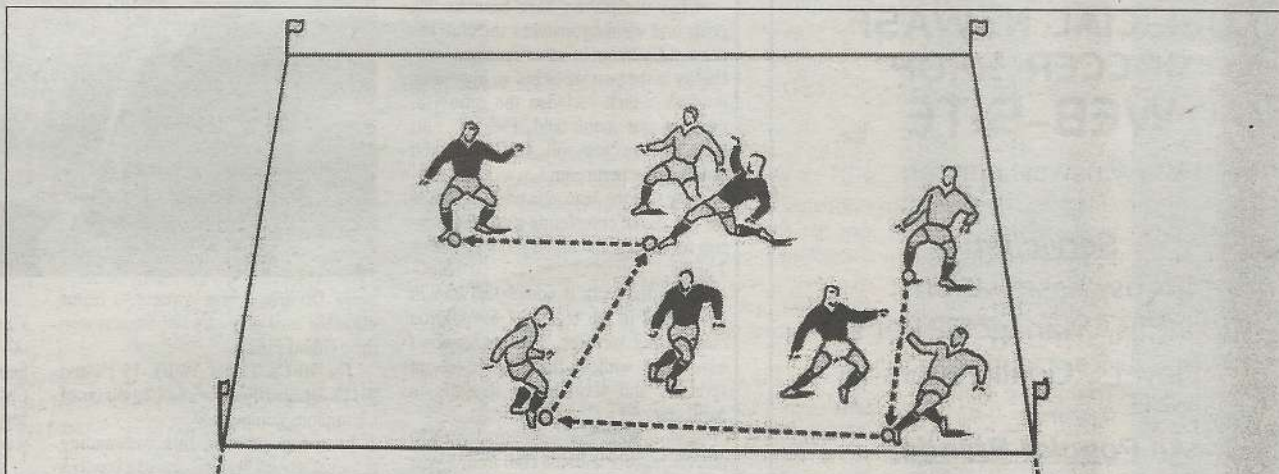
Important coaching points to consider in the exercise are that the player who receives the ball does so with the correct foot and with their body positioned so that the options are in front of them.

The player off the ball needs to get into position early to provide opportunities to the player on the ball. Make sure that the supporting player don't go 'hiding' behind the defenders.

To make the game more interesting you can provide an incentive for the attacker by rewarding each pass with a point and two points if a pass splits the defenders.

The defenders can get out of the middle quicker if they win the ball say three times then two of the attacker become the defenders.

#### 3) Condition Game — 5 v 5 (or 6 v 6 or 7 v 7) — 20 minutes



Once again the purpose of this drill is to promote running off the ball and covering. This is the progression from the previous drill, and the object of the game is for each side to keep possession and make as many passes with the other team gaining possession of the ball. Depending on what you would like to achieve, you can apply conditions such as "two-touch" or "one-touch" to make the activity a little more interesting.

#### 4) Condition Game - 5 v 5 + Goalkeepers - 20 minutes

The progression from the previous drill is to introduce two goals and two goalkeepers. Once the possession of the aspect of the game has been achieved, you can then encourage players to shoot for goal.

#### 5) Warm Down and Stretching - 15 minutes

It is important to have a warm down and stretch after a strenuous work-out as this helps in the recovery process.

And there you have it a one and a half-hour training session that works

on possession. As this is just an example, you could modify the drills depending on the number of players you have in your squad, available space and time constraints.

The most important thing is that it is planned before you get out on the training field. If you are organised, this will be passed onto your players and hopefully reflected in your team's performance.

*That's all for this week,  
Until Next Week  
Happy Coaching*

**Jean-Paul de Marigny**  
Coaching and Development Manager  
NSW Soccer Federation

*References: Games for Football Training (1970), Gunter Lammich and Dr Heinz Kadow, Pelham Books.*



## NEW SOUTH WALES SOCCER FEDERATION

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**Where:** Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, NSW  
**Who:** Any Women or Girls with an interest in Soccer (must be over 15 years)  
**How Much:** \$98.00 (including GST)

For more information or an application form, contact Tricia at the NSW Soccer Federation by e-mail ([tricia@soccernsw.com.au](mailto:tricia@soccernsw.com.au)) or phone ((02) 9629 1800).

For more information about Coaching accreditation courses, check out our website, [www.soccernsw.com.au](http://www.soccernsw.com.au)





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## SCORING GOALS

This year whilst Castle Hill United Soccer Club celebrated its 30th anniversary the club enjoyed unprecedented success both on and off the field.

While our players have been scoring goals and winning matches the club has achieved success in other areas as well. Earlier in the year we began an upgrading program which included the refurbishment of our main field, Field 1. This included new top soil, turf and rabbit proofing the perimeter.

Now that the season is over, we are in the process of completing a drainage system for Field 1 and rabbit proofing Fields 2 and 3.

When the work is completed we will have spent in the region of \$90,000 on our playing surfaces. This we couldn't have done without the support of our sponsors and Castlehaven Realtors in particular.

Season 2002 saw approximately 850 players register with the club from 5 year olds to the over 35's graded to ability levels. We had 16 Funskills teams (not graded), 11 Rooball teams and 40 competition teams, of which the club fielded a team in



every Division 1 age group. 30 teams made the final play-offs and 6 teams won their Grand Finals.

The 10/1's, 12/1's, 14/1's, 15/1's and 21/1's all qualified for the Champion of Champions competition.

In recognition of this outstanding achievement by both players and coaches the club was presented with 'The Club Champion' trophy by Steve Courtney of the Granville and District Soccer Federation.

After the 21/1's and 21/2's Grand Final victories the team was joined by the other two Under 21 teams and also the Seniors for a huge celebration at The Castle Hill Tavern. The hospitality and service was great and a fantastic night was had by all concerned.

This year, for the first time, the club is running a 6-a-side 'Summer Comp' for children between the ages of 7 to 11.

We presently have 65 teams who come and play one night a week at Fred

Caterson Reserve.

As part of our commitment to help coaches improve their skill level the club offers Level 1 and 2 coaching courses, organised through our coaching administrator.

So what does the future have in store? Well the club is very pleased to announce that next season (2003) we will be re-entering the Premier League Competition. The club is very excited at this prospect and wishes the team every success.

Since Castle Hill United Soccer Club's inception 30 years ago, the emphasis has always been on sportsmanship. Down the years, as well as striving to improve the skill levels of our players and coaches, the club has always placed a great deal of importance on team spirit, enjoying the game and, above all, fair play. This today, is what characterises Castle Hill United Soccer Club.

If you would like more information about becoming either a player or sponsor of Castle Hill United Soccer Club please contact Linton Carter on 0408 411 889.

## KU-RING-GAI DISTRICT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Ku-ring-gai District Soccer Association held its Annual General Meeting on 19th November, 2002 to highlight a successful year for the Association and to elect its Management Committee for 2003.

Some of the highlights of the 2002 year were:

- Holding of Information Sessions for Clubs and Life Members
- Club visitation programme put in place and 22 clubs visited
- Working parties established for grounds, junior team regrading, constitution review
- Electronic Registration system up-grade and Web-site up-grade
- 11% growth in player registrations (11,974 players)
- Introduction of Northern Tigers with the Under 21's

being Champions

- All competitions completed successfully
- Conducted many coaching courses

The Management Committee for 2003 was elected as follows:

- President ..... Chris Rayner
- Vice President ..... Ian Giblett
- Treasurer ..... Arthur Duffield
- Secretary ..... Gary Foster
- All Age Football Chairman ..... David Kok
- Junior Football Chairman ..... Ian Bernard
- Women's Football Chairman ..... Christine Freer
- All Age Registrar ..... Vic Poimer

Junior Football Registrar Roslyn Hunter

Women's Football Registrar ..... Mick Connelly-Greig

P & D Chairman ..... Damian Miles

Representative Convenor Kristie O'Sullivan

Public Relations Officer ..... Roy Ashpole

Grounds Controller ..... Brad Rayner

The committee has begun working on policy for season 2003 already and will finish over the next week or so and will then communicate outcomes to member Clubs.

On behalf of the Committee we would like to wish all our Clubs, Players, Officials and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all again in Season 2003.



Warehouse Staff



## SOCCER WEARHOUSE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

On Behalf of Management & Staff of the Soccer Wearhouse we would like to say we wish all our Valued Customers & Suppliers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward in building a business partnership for the up & coming 2003 season and into the future.



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# ITALIAN SERIE A

## ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

**I**t was the battle of the big cities this weekend in Italy. Rome, the capital and religious centre, against Milan, the business heart and soul of Italy.

In the end the points went narrowly to Milan. It was AC Milan's one-nil victory over Roma that gave it to them while Lazio fought out a three all draw with Inter.

It was this latter game that had all the excitement at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. However, AC Milan's win takes them to the top of the Serie A table.

Lazio led their match by three goals to nil but Inter fought back bravely.

It was a real test of character for Roberto Mancini's team. Prior to the game rumours surfaced that Inter were looking at securing Mancini's services next year to replace Hector Cuper on the bench.

Inter were playing without regulars Luigi Di Biagio, Domenico Morfeo, Marco Materazzi and Francesco Coco but had Christian Vieri and Matias Almeyda up against their old team. The star of the show was Lazio's Argentinian striker Claudio Lopez who scored a hat-trick. Cuper should have been well aware of Lopez because he coached him at Valencia. Lopez stole the show from his Argentinian rival at Inter Hernan Crespo who has been in great form of late.

At the San Siro, Roma coach Fabio Capello, who these days is known for his whining about referees, returned to the ground where he had most success. In his first stint at AC Milan in the early 1990's he won four Serie A league titles in five years. It was truly an amazing run with one of the all time great teams.

It was Filippo Inzaghi who scored the only goal in this rather boring game. He was left on the bench until the 62nd minute because coach Carlo Ancelotti, himself a former Roma player, preferred Andriy Shevchenko. AC Milan have now won all seven of their home matches this season. Roma were without Francesco Totti and Vincent Candela, and Gabriel Batistuta was once again left on the bench until well into the second half.

It must be said that Batistuta certainly appeared to be the most dangerous and adventurous Roma striker when he was on the field, but Capello preferred to start with the Vincenzo Montella and Antonio Cassano pairing up front.

Roma, however, seemed content just to absorb AC Milan's pressure. They rarely troubled goalkeeper Christian Abbiati in the AC Milan goal. On the whole it was a wonderful Saturday night of soccer in Italy and it is great that these two cities had their teams opposed to each other on the same weekend.

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**T**he plague in Italian soccer at the moment is violence. Fans rioting, thousands of police on patrol, players attacked on the field and more.

This is the grim picture that seems to emerge each week from Italy. How can it be prevented? What is the cause? These are indeed very difficult, if not impossible, questions to answer.

It seems amazing that grounds have a concrete drop to segregate fans. It is almost akin to trench warfare. Thousands of police officers regularly patrol outside and inside all of the major grounds. It must cost the Italian taxpayer a fortune.

Sadly it seems that a minority element takes it all far too seriously. Soccer is a sport that should be enjoyed by the whole family but unfortunately it can't be.

Furthermore, the Italian media has a lot to answer for. They have made soccer what it is in Italy. The saturation coverage is actually harming the game. It is as if nothing else really matters.

Television especially is the main culprit. Far too much nonsense is shown such as useless discussion shows where every little point is discussed at length. You would think that these clowns were solving the world's problems. There is an underlying belief that soccer is far more important than anything else. It is a mild form of brainwashing.

Hence when these spectators attend games they sense that a game is much more important than it really is. Sunday night news bulletins now regularly report on the number of people injured. Society seems to have gone mad.

It is time the authorities cracked down on these unwelcome elements in Italian soccer. Soccer stadiums are too regularly 'battlefields' and this is totally unacceptable. If they don't then soccer in Italy is destined to self destruct.



Brescia goalscorer Markus Schopp (left) holds off Edgar Davids of Juventus.

### AC MILAN 1 ROMA 0

**F**ilippo Inzaghi's first Serie A goal in a month took AC Milan to the league summit and meant a most unhappy return to the San Siro for former boss Fabio Capello as Roma were beaten 1-0.

On the field for only 12 minutes after replacing Serginho, he fired home the only goal of the match in the 73rd minute.

A long pass out of defence picked out the former Juventus frontman and he played a one-two with Andrei Shevchenko before sliding the ball under Francesco Antonioli in the Roma goal.

### LAZIO 3 INTER MILAN 3

**C**laudio Lopez scored his first Lazio hat-trick but a freak own-goal and two terrific strikes from Emre meant the Serie A pace-setters had to settle for a point after a 3-3 draw at home to Inter Milan.

Argentinian Lopez had put Lazio three goals to the good after 35 minutes, with a penalty and two close-range finishes, but Fernando Couto put the ball past Angelo Peruzzi, his own goalkeeper, to give Inter Milan hope at half-time.

And two long-range efforts from Turkish midfielder Emre in the second half earned Inter a point which had looked most unlikely.

### BRESCIA 2 JUVENTUS 0

**J**uventus boss Marcello Lippi may have brought back the big guns for this match but it could not prevent Brescia from claiming a



AC Milan's Filippo Inzaghi scored the winner against AS Roma.

stunning upset thanks to late goals from Markus Schopp and Igli Tare.

Schopp gave the hosts the lead with just 13 minutes to go. Marco Pisano made good ground on the left before sending in a cross that proved too good for Ciro Ferrara and Schopp was on hand to head past Gianluigi Buffon into the net.

The Brescia fans had precious little time to celebrate that goal before they were sent into raptures again, this time by Tare.

Schopp fed the ball into Stephan Appiah and his cross from the right was met by Tare whose shot whistled past Buffon.

### PARMA 2 REGGINA 0

**A**driano netted two second-half goals to help Parma to their third straight home win at the expense of Reggina.

The in-form Brazilian striker also grabbed a brace in last week's 4-0 demolition of Torino and he is proving to be the man with the golden touch for Parma.

He opened the scoring after 57 minutes before securing the points with Parma's second 10 minutes from the end.

### UDINESE 2 EMPOLI 1

**U**dinese coach Luciano Spalletti put one over his former club as Vincenzo Iaquinta's last-gasp penalty gave them all three points against Empoli.

David Pizarro fired the hosts ahead with a sweetly-struck 10th minute penalty to send the home fans wild with delight.

But pacy midfielder Igli Vannucchi levelled the scores 13 minutes later for the visitors, who looked lost without injured Italian international forward Antonio Di Natale.

The game appeared to be heading for a draw until Iaquinta thundered home from the penalty spot in stoppage time.

### MODENA 1 COMO 1

**G**iuseppe Sculli came off the bench to score for Modena but he could not deliver all three points as Sasa Bjelanovic netted a stoppage-time equaliser for Como.

Sculli, an Italian Under-21 international, was dropped from the starting line-up after his form dropped in recent weeks.

But he responded to the challenge by breaking the deadlock here with his 75th-minute strike.

Modena won a corner but as it was sent into the penalty area Ferron made a mess of claiming the ball and Sculli was on hand to head home from close range.

With the game fast running towards its conclusion, Como grabbed a point they deserved and, like

Modena's goal, it came from a corner.

Binotto took the kick, which was cleared by Stefano Mauri back to Binotto.

He crossed again and this time Bjelanovic beat a crowd of players to head the ball home from close range to equalise.

### PERUGIA 0 PIACENZA 0

**P**erugia were held to a scoreless draw by struggling Piacenza.

The visitors, now just a place above the relegation zone after Brescia's surprise defeat of Juventus, need every point they can get.

And they battled hard for their spoils, frustrating the home side at every turn.

Piacenza actually had chances to claim all three points in a game which boasted plenty of goalscoring opportunities.

### CHIEVO 0 BOLOGNA 0

**C**hievo Verona and Bologna played out a goalless draw in Sunday's late game. Neither side could find a way to break the deadlock and Chievo remain one place above their opponents, level on 23 points in fifth and sixth places respectively.

\* Atalanta v Torino was postponed after Atalanta's team doctor was found dead in his hotel room.

## FIXTURES

### Saturday 14 December

Piacenza v Chievo

Bologna v Parma

### Sunday 15 December

Brescia v Perugia

Como v AC Milan

Empoli v Modena

Inter Milan v Atalanta

Roma v Reggina

Udinese v Torino

Juventus v Lazio

**AC Milan 1 - 0 AS Roma, Lazio 3 - 3 Inter Milan, Brescia 2 - 0 Juventus, Modena 1 - 1 Como, Parma 2 - 0 Reggina, Perugia 0 - 0 Piacenza, Torino ? - ? Atalanta (postponed), Udinese 2 - 1 Empoli, Chievo 0 - 0 Bologna.**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	13	9	2	2	28	9	29
Lazio	13	8	4	1	28	13	28
Inter Milan	13	8	3	2	28	15	27
Juventus	13	7	5	1	21	10	26
Chievo	13	7	2	4	21	13	23
Bologna	13	6	5	2	16	9	23
Parma	13	6	4	3	24	14	22
Modena	13	6	1	6	12	20	19
Perugia	13	5	3	5	17	19	18
Udinese	12	5	3	4	11	13	18
Roma	13	4	5	4	23	22	17
Empoli	13	5	-2	6	20	19	17
Piacenza	13	3	3	7	11	17	12
Brescia	13	3	3	7	16	25	12
Atalanta	12	2	2	8	11	23	8
Reggina	13	1	4	8	10	23	7
Torino	12	2	0	10	6	26	6
Como	12	0	5	7	7	20	5





# ENGLISH



## An English Odyssey

By Stuart Jones

**W**elcome back to another week from the old dart. West Ham have lost influential striker Paolo Di Canio for a number of weeks after last week's 1-0 loss to Southampton. He has a knee injury and went under the knife last Thursday. He is expected back late February. Boss Glenn Roeder has demanded his club chase two on loan strikers as an answer to their problems.

Whilst the bad news continues for the Hammers there is better news in other parts of London with Gianfranco Zola likely to play for Chelsea for another season after his great play this term.

Port Vale have gone into voluntary administration. It has been reported a number of interested parties have talked to the owner Bill Bell but were unlikely to want to assume the 2.4 million pound debt associated with the club.

Meanwhile Bradford players have agreed to defer a percentage of their wages until next summer. The club had failed to pay their players last week. Interesting this agreement because over summer clubs have no income coming in normal so it will be interesting to see where the Bantams will get the extra money to pay off the players in the off season.

Another club in trouble financially is Watford who have been very publicly supported by none other than Vinnie Jones who has bought into the club and asked other fans of the club to do the same.

Good news for Barnsley fans though as the Tykes have confirmed they are now owned by Peter Doyle and will come out of administration. There are rumours that Glynn Hodges may not be boss for long though as there is talk of Doyle bringing in his own man as the boss.

Keith Curle has taken over as player boss at Mansfield Town. Manchester United chief executive Peter Kenyon says there should only be 40 professional clubs. John Nagle of the Football League stated that there are more financial problems at the upper levels of the game in the UK than in the lower divisions. "Perhaps the biggest problems being caused in Division One are clubs relegated from the Premier League such as Leicester, Derby and Bradford." (You could also name the likes of Sheffield Wednesday, Swindon, and Nottingham Forest in the past.)

Nagle also mentioned a number of profitable lower league sides like Crewe, Rochdale and Walsall. Meanwhile Barry Hearn, owner of Leyton Orient, referred to Kenyon's comments as patronising. "How does Peter Kenyon in his ivory towers at Manchester United understand what's going on in football?"

Everton is to be given more time in raising funds for its new stadium on the Mersey waterfront. They are still chasing 30 million pounds but are struggling for backers. They are confident of raising the support in the extra two weeks they have been granted though.

The FA are probing John Gregory's transfer dealings whilst at Aston Villa. A number of his big name signings are being investigated but Gorgory is ready to fight against any allegations of irregularities in the deals.

Hull are to take on Sunderland in a friendly to launch their new stadium.

In Worthington Cup results Villa defeated Preston 5-0, Chelsea defeated Everton 4-1, Wigan upset Fulham 2-1, Blackburn flogged Rotherham 4-0 whilst Liverpool drew 1-1 with Ipswich with the home side through on penalties 5-4. The day before Manchester United defeated Burnley 2-0, Crystal Palace defeated Oldham 2-0 whilst Sheffield United upset Sunderland 2-0, including a goal from Shaun Murphy.

Manchester United and Chelsea have been drawn to play each other in the quarter finals Wigan play Blackburn at home whilst Sheffield United take on fellow Division One club Crystal Palace. Aston Villa will play Liverpool in the other all Premiership clash.

Striker John Sutton has returned to Tottenham after a two month loan spell at Carlisle. During that time he managed one goal for Carlisle in ten matches. At that strike rate he should become a super star back at Spurs, but the culture shock of returning to White Hart Lane after learning how to play real football at Brunton Park could see him struggle for a little while. (Then again he is back at Spurs so he will just get lost in the many others struggling.)

Just five days after joining Stoke on loan Mark Crossley has returned to Middlesbrough. Aussie Keeper Mark Schwarzer suffered a hand injury and in response Boro instigated the 24 hour recall clause. The irony is the injury may not be bad enough to keep Schwarzer out at all but Crossley is needed for cover just in case. Finally this week the calls for performance based pay continue to resound from the board rooms of football clubs. This time it was Leeds deputy chairman Alan Leighton making the call to help alleviate the current financial woes in the game. Leeds have a wage rate 60% higher than their entire turnover.

Until next week keep enjoying your football!

**U**nited beat Arsenal in the EPL's match of the season so far while Charlton upset Liverpool. Fulham, Chelsea and Newcastle also won their respective matches.

A goal in each half saw Manchester United deservedly defeat Arsenal 2-0 at Old Trafford and move to within three points of the Premiership leaders.

United appeared to have more determination from the outset, and their hunger was typified by Phil Neville who was quite superb in a midfield holding role.

Juan Sebastian Veron returning to the side after a bout of flu - opened the scoring after 22 minutes.

Ruud van Nistelrooy appeared to handle before releasing Paul Scholes and the England midfielder's cross was turned in from close range by Veron.

Arsenal huffed and puffed but failed to carve out many clear-cut chances - indeed Fabian Barthez, who did well to deny Robert Pires in the first half, did not have to make a save after the break.

The points were sealed in the 73rd minute when Scholes' drive from just inside the box was deflected past substitute keeper Stuart Taylor by Martin Keown.

The victory means United has now defeated their biggest rivals for the EPL title, Liverpool and Arsenal in consecutive weeks.

And with the likes of Roy Keane, David Beckham, Rio Ferdinand, Nicky Butt and Laurent Blanc still on the sidelines through injury, Sir Alex Ferguson's men have sent out a clear message to the rest of the league.

Liverpool's miserable run of form continued as they slumped to their fourth Premiership defeat in five games at Charlton.

Gerard Houllier's side have managed just one point since topping the table last month and were beaten by goals from Jason Euell and Paul Konchesky at The Valley.

It proved an uncomfortable day for Chris Kirkland on his long-awaited first league appearance of the season.

The England Under-21 keeper needed lengthy treatment for an injury in the first half and was then picking the ball out of the net when Euell struck after 36 minutes.

Liverpool raised their game and dominated after the break but were caught against the run of play when Konchesky pounced to make it 2-0 12 minutes from time.

The problems also increased for Leeds and their beleaguered manager Terry Venables as they slipped to a fourth successive defeat at Fulham.



Manchester United players celebrate victory against Arsenal.

Leeds fell behind after just 10 minutes of a dismal first half at Loftus Road, Martin Djetou heading home his first goal for the Cottagers.

Steed Malbranque also hit the crossbar as the home side took complete control but Leeds did fight back after the break.

Robbie Fowler forced a good save from Edwin van der Sar but Fulham, who had been short of form themselves, held on for a 1-0 win.

Chelsea beat Everton for the second time in a week but were made to work hard for their three points at Goodison Park.

The Londoners fired four past David Moyes' side in the Worthington Cup on Wednesday and looked on course for another comfortable win as they went two ahead inside 30 minutes.

Mario Stanic opened the scoring and in-form striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink added a second but Gary Naysmith bagged his second of the week to keep his side in the game.

Everton mounted attack after attack in the second half but Chelsea held on to move up to second with Jesper Gronkjaer making it 3-1 after David Unsworth was sent off in the dying moments.

Struggling Bolton looked like claiming a precious three points only to be stung by a late Blackburn equaliser in a frantic local derby at the Reebok Stadium.

Nigerian Jay Jay Okocha scored what looked like being the only goal of the game after just eight minutes following good work from Per Frandsen and Henrik Pedersen.

Youri Djorkaeff also spurned a glorious opportunity to score when he blazed over and Blackburn had goalkeeper Brad Friedel to thank for limiting further damage.

But Bolton, who conceded a late goal to Chelsea a fortnight ago, were again undone late on as Craig Short grabbed a last-gasp equaliser.

Bottom side West Ham were denied a much-needed victory by a Ugo Ehiogu equaliser for Middlesbrough at the Riverside.

The Hammers were the better team throughout and looked on course for victory when Ian Pearce put them 2-1 ahead in the second half.

But Ehiogu rose to head home and earn his side a point two minutes from time.

Alan Shearer struck a late winner as Newcastle emerged from a tense encounter with Aston Villa with a 1-0 win.

The former England striker claimed the only goal of the game after 82 minutes with a powerful header.

James Beattie was twice on the mark as Southampton beat Birmingham 2-0 at St Mary's.

Darren Purse handled to give Beattie the chance to open the scoring from the penalty spot in the 63rd minute. His second made sure of the points seven minutes from the end.

## PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester U. 2 - 0 Arsenal, Aston Villa 0 - 1 Newcastle U., Bolton W. 1 - 1 Blackburn R., Charlton Athletic 2 - 0 Liverpool, Everton 1 - 3 Chelsea, Fulham 1 - 0 Leeds U., Middlesbrough 2 - 2 West Ham U., Southampton 2 - 0 Birmingham C., Tottenham H. 3 - 1 West Bromwich A.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	17	11	2	4	36	19	35
Chelsea	17	9	6	2	31	14	33
Man Utd	17	9	5	3	27	17	32
Liverpool	17	9	4	4	27	17	31
Everton	17	9	2	6	20	20	29
Newcastle	16	9	1	6	26	23	28
Tottenham	17	8	3	6	23	23	27
Southampton	17	7	5	5	20	17	26
Middlesbrough	17	7	4	6	21	15	25
Blackburn	17	6	6	5	23	20	24
Charlton	17	7	2	8	18	20	23
Fulham	7	6	4	7	22	22	22
Birmingham	17	5	5	7	16	21	20
Man City	16	6	2	8	17	23	20
Aston Villa	17	5	4	8	15	17	19
Leeds	17	5	2	10	20	25	17
West Brom	17	4	3	10	12	25	15
Bolton	16	3	5	8	18	28	14
Sunderland	16	3	5	8	8	20	14
West Ham	17	3	4	10	17	31	13

## FIRST DIVISION

Reading 0 - 0 Portsmouth, Bradford C. 1 - 3 Gillingham, Burnley 1 - 0 Nottingham F., Crystal Palace 1 - 0 Millwall, Derby County 3 - 0 Watford, Ipswich T. 1 - 2 Rotherham U., Leicester C. 0 - 0 Sheffield U., Preston North End 3 - 5 Wimbledon, Sheffield W. 1 - 1 Brighton & Hove A., Stoke C. 1 - 2 Coventry C., Walsall 3 - 1 Grimsby T., Wolverhampton W. 1 - 0 Norwich C.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	22	16	4	2	47	20	52
Leicester	22	13	6	3	33	20	45
Nottm Forest	22	11	6	5	38	21	39
Norwich	22	11	6	5	34	18	39
Reading	21	12	3	6	24	14	39
Wolverhampton	21	10	6	5	39	21	36
Sheff Utd	21	10	6	5	33	24	36
Watford	22	10	4	8	27	32	34
Burnley	22	9	5	8	31	35	32
Rotherham	22	8	7	7	34	26	31
Wimbledon	22	9	4	9	38	36	31
Crystal Palace	22	7	9	6	32	26	30
Derby	22	9	3	10	27	28	30
Coventry	22	8	6	8	27	30	30
Millwall	22	8	5	9	23	31	29
Preston	22	6	10	6	37	38	28
Gillingham	22	7	7	8	24	29	28
Walsall	22	7	4	11	34	38	25
Ipswich	20	6	5	9	25	25	23
Bradford	22	4	7	11	22	41	19
Grimsby	22	4	5	13	24	44	17
Stoke	22	3	6	13	22	40	15
Sheff Wed	22	2	8	12	17	36	14
Brighton	21	3	4	14	21	40	13

## FA CUP ACTION

Blackpool 3 Torquay 1, Bristol R 1 Rochdale 1, C'bridge 2 North'pton 2, Crawley 1 Dag & Red 2, Crewe 3 Mansfield 0, Darl'ton 4 Stevenage 1, Exeter 3 Rushden 1, Harrogate R 1 Bristol C 3, Macc'field 2 Vauxhall M 0, Margate 0 Cardiff 3, Morecambe 3 Chester 2, Oldham 1 Cheltenham 2, Oxford 1 Swindon 0, Scunthorpe 0 Carlisle 0, Shrewsbury 3 Barrow 1, Southend 1 Bou'mouth 1, Southport 0 F'borough 3, Stockport 0 Plymouth 3, Wigan 3 Luton 0, York 1 Brentford 2.



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DUTCH EREDIVISIE



PSV Eindhoven kept the pressure on Ajax at the top of the Dutch table with an impressive 3-1 win at Utrecht as Mateja Kezman scored twice on Sunday.

The Yugoslavian international found the net just two minutes into the game and then Andre Ooijer doubled the advantage two minutes later.

Utrecht got a solitary strike in the game from Dave van den Bergh. He scored on the stroke of half-time, but that was all they could muster. Kezman got his second in the 67th minute and now PSV, 15 games into the season, are just one point behind Ajax.

RKC Waalwijk survived the sending off of goalkeeper Rob Van Dijk to beat Roda JC 2-1.

Van Dijk was dismissed after 29 minutes but within four minutes his team had managed to score through Zeljko Petrovic.

Jochen Janssen then made it 2-0 for 10-man RKC and Roda's only consolation was a 71st-minute strike by Diego Jongen, and in the last minute a disappointing day for Roda was topped off by the sending off of Ger Senden for a second bookable offence.

NEC scored once in each half to secure a 2-0 win over local rivals Vitesse and earn valuable points in their battle to leave the drop zone well behind them.

Georgi Hristov opened the scoring after 31 minutes and Peter Wisgerhof hit his team's second in the 62nd minute to net the win.

The result means the two sides, separated by barely 15 miles, also have just a point between them on the Eredivisie table.

The day's other game saw Groningen pick up a valuable point in their efforts to escape the drop zone when they drew 0-0 with Twente Enschede.

On Saturday, leaders Ajax dropped two points against the Eredivisie's bottom side and had goalscorer Mido sent off late on as frustration got the better of them in a 1-1 draw with De Graafschap.

Mido had put Ajax in front after just 18 minutes, but Dutch football's

top side could not make the gulf in league positions between themselves and their opponents count and Dave Zafarin earned the home side a valuable point with his goal two minutes after half-time.

To compound Ajax's misery, Mido was dismissed for violent conduct two minutes from the end.

Feyenoord missed the chance to close the gap on the Eredivisie's top two as they were stunned by lowly Heerenveen, throwing away a lead to lose 3-1.

The Rotterdam club had an ideal opportunity to reduce the distance between themselves and their nearest rivals.

And although the first half ended goalless, they appeared to be on course when Belgian midfielder Thomas Buffel put them ahead in the 57th minute.

However, Heerenveen, who had won only three of their 15 matches beforehand, were stung into action and within 12 minutes they were in front.

Finnish midfielder Mika Vayrynen netted the equaliser in the 63rd minute and six minutes later striker Romano Denneboom put Heerenveen in front.

Two minutes from time Vayrynen's international team-mate Mika Nurmela sealed victory to lift his side two places up the table to 13th.

Tim De Cler's dismissal proved to be the decisive moment as Willem II beat AZ Alkmaar 3-1.

With the visitors already one down after James Quinn's 21st minute opener, De Cler received his marching orders for a foul in the area just three minutes into the second half.

Danny Landzaat converted the resulting penalty and although Martijn Meerdink pulled one back for AZ with 20 minutes to go, Dmitri Shoukov sealed the win 10 minutes from time.

RBC Roosendaal 1 - 1 Excelsior Rotterdam, De Graafschap 1 - 1 Ajax Amsterdam, SC Heerenveen 3 - 1 Feyenoord Rotterdam, Willem II Tilburg 3 - 1 AZ Alkmaar, FC Utrecht 1 - 3 PSV Eindhoven, FC Twente Enschede 0 - 0 FC Groningen, NEC Nijmegen 2 - 0 Vitesse Arnhem, RKC Waalwijk 3 - 1 Roda Kerkrade.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	15	11	4	0	40	14	37
PSV	15	11	3	1	37	8	36
Feyenoord	15	9	2	4	33	18	29
RKC	15	7	3	5	18	22	24
Roda JC	15	6	5	4	27	22	23
FC Utrecht	15	6	5	4	21	18	23
NAC	14	5	7	2	20	11	22
Willem II	15	6	3	6	24	22	21
AZ	15	6	2	7	26	34	20
FC Twente	15	4	6	5	16	22	18
NEC	14	5	3	6	19	26	18
Vitesse	15	4	4	7	16	17	16
RBC	15	4	4	7	20	23	16
Heerenveen	15	4	4	7	20	27	16
Excelsior	14	3	5	6	16	24	14
FC Zwolle	14	3	3	8	14	25	12
FC Groningen	15	2	4	9	13	25	10
De Graafschap	15	2	3	10	14	36	9

REAL MADRID WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONS

By George Khamo

Olimpia .....0  
Real Madrid .....2

European champions Real Madrid beat Olimpia of Paraguay 2-0 to win the World Club Cup for the third time on Tuesday, emphatically bringing to an end a poor run of results this season.

Real, who won the competition in 1960 and 1998, went ahead in the 14th minute at the International Stadium in Yokohama when Brazil striker Ronaldo finished clinically from just inside the box after Raul had cleverly dummed a left-wing cross from Roberto Carlos.

Substitute Guti, on as a late substitute for Ronaldo, added a richly deserved second for Real with his first touch, heading in a right-wing cross from Luis Figo in the

84th minute to exorcise the ghosts of the 2-1 defeat to Boca Juniors two years ago.

However, it could have been a different story if Olimpia striker Rodrigo Lopez had not volleyed a wicked cross from right-back Nestor Isasi against the post moments after Ronaldo's opener.

Ronaldo memorably scored twice to give Brazil a 2-0 win over Germany in the World Cup final at the same venue in June. But he wasted a glorious chance to repeat that achievement in the 42nd minute, latching onto a Raul pass only to blast over from close range with just goalkeeper Ricardo Tavealli to beat.

The Spanish side, who has struggled domestically this season, continued to dominate after the break as they looked to add the World Club Cup to the Champions League and European Super Cup titles they have won in their centenary year.

Ronaldo and Raul both came close in quick succession before Roberto Carlos brought an acrobatic save from

Tavealli in the 56th minute with a curling effort from 25 metres as Real put the South American champions under intense pressure.

Olimpia striker Miguel Angel Benitez saw a long-range effort flash just wide in the 65th minute but in truth the Paraguayans rarely threatened a Real defence marshalled superbly by Fernando Hierro, unflappable on his return from an ankle injury.

Claude Makelele, who also impressed on his return from injury, could have put the result beyond doubt for Real four minutes later but the French midfielder missed his kick with the goal at his mercy after a pull-back from Ronaldo. Raul just failed to make enough contact from another teasing cross from Roberto Carlos in the 78th minute as the crowd of 66,000 urged Real forward.

But Guti, who replaced man-of-the-match Ronaldo in the 82nd minute, underlined Real's superiority six minutes from time, escaping his marker to score with a glancing header after fine work from Figo.



Real Madrid players celebrate after beating Olimpia 2-0 to win the World Club Cup at Yokohama International Stadium.

Real won the inaugural World Club Cup over home and away legs against Penarol of Uruguay in 1960. They also lost a two-leg final to the same opponents in 1966. They beat Vasco da Gama of Brazil 2-1 in 1998 to win their first title since the competition switched to a one-match format in 1980.



GREEK ETHNIKI KATIGORIA



PAOK are still sitting pretty at the top of the table thanks to a 3-0 victory over rivals Ionikos. Yiannakis Okkas slotted Giorgos Georgiadis' cross in the fifth minute before Nikos Frusos doubled the lead after 54 minutes.

Yiassemakis Yiassemis completed the scoring in injury time but no supporters were there to celebrate as the game was played behind closed doors because of an enforced punishment.

Second-placed Olympiakos claimed a crushing 7-0 victory over basement club Panachaiki Patras.

Christos Patsantzoglu (11), Ze Elias (24), Christian Karembeu (26), Stelios Yiannakopoulos (47), Alexis Alexandris (65), Par Zetterberg (82) and Labros Chutos (87) all found the back of the net.

Panathinaikos leapfrogged Iraklis into third place after Emmanuel Olisadebe bagged a brace in their comfortable 2-0 victory.

The Polish international striker converted Giorgos Karagounis' cross in the 31st minute before grabbing his second 12 minutes later.

AEK Athens came from behind to earn a 1-1 draw at



Action between AEK Athens and Proodeftiki last week.

Proodeftiki.

Fassos Pantos headed the hosts ahead in the 29th minute, only for Sotiris Konstantinidis to level after an excellent through-ball from Theo Zagorakis 11 minutes later.

Darjan Saric claimed his second goal of the season as Giannina took the lead against Xanthi, only for Gunter Friesenbichler to earn his side a share of the spoils seven minutes after the restart.

Finally Aegaleo were held to a 0-0 draw by Kallithea, while OFI Crete also claimed a goalless draw at Panionios.

Akratitos 0 - 2 Aris Saloniki, Giannina 1 - 1 Xanthi Skoda, Panionios 0 - 0 OFI Crete, Egaleo Athens 0 - 0 Kallithea, Olympiakos Piraeus 7 - 0 Panachaiki Patras, PAOK Saloniki 3 - 0 Ionikos Nikea, Proodeftiki 1 - 1 AEK Athens, Panathinaikos 2 - 0 Iraklis Saloniki.

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 PAOK	10	6	3	1	26	14	21
2 Olympiakos	10	5	5	0	23	4	20
3 Panathinaikos	10	6	1	3	12	8	19
4 Iraklis	10	5	3	2	13	8	18
5 Aris	10	5	3	2	12	9	18
6 Panionios	10	4	3	3	10	7	15
7 AEK	10	4	3	3	14	12	15
8 Xanthi	10	3	6	1	14	6	15
9 Proodeftiki	10	3	5	2	11	9	14
10 Egaleo	10	2	6	2	7	9	12
11 OFI	10	2	4	4	9	11	10
12 Ionikos	10	2	4	4	6	16	10
13 Kallithea	10	2	4	4	8	11	10
14 Akratitos	10	2	2	6	9	20	8
15 Giannina	10	1	3	6	8	14	6
16 Panachaiki	10	0	1	9	2	26	1



## Scottish Premier League

**R**angers moved back to the summit of the SPL with a 3-2 Old Firm derby victory over Celtic that lifted them above and two points clear of their rivals.

The result also extended the remarkable unbeaten run of Rangers manager Alex McLeish to six derby jousts against Martin O'Neill, whose Celtic side regularly had the beating of their rivals when Dick Advocaat was in charge.

Celtic provided a sensational start to the game with Chris Sutton's opener after just 19 seconds but Rangers hit back with goals from Craig Moore, Ronald de Boer and Michael Mols to lead at the interval.

Celtic dominated from the restart but ended up with only John Hartson's goal after the hour mark to show for it.

Two goals in the first seven minutes saw Dundee United and Hibernian share the points in a hard-fought match at Tannadice.

Mark Wilson grabbed his first goal for United from a corner in the third minute, only for the outstanding Ian Murray to head an equaliser just four minutes later.

Both sides had plenty chances to win the match but some woeful finishing and excellent goalkeeping ended any hopes of a win for either side.

Andy Kirk scored twice to give Hearts their first-ever Premier League win over Livingston.

The Northern Ireland international opened the scoring in the fifth minute before Rolando Zarate equalised.

But Kirk struck a 69th-minute penalty after Oscar Rubio had brought down Mark de Vries to clinch a 2-1 win.

Aberdeen's players did caretaker manager Gardner Speirs' chances of being handed the manager's job on a permanent basis no good whatsoever after they produced another below-par performance during a 1-1 draw with Motherwell.

Speirs has been handed the reins until a successor to Ebbe Skovdahl is found, but has expressed an interest in the job himself.

A 30th-minute strike from Derek Young looked to have given him the perfect start to his managerial career,

but a second half equaliser from William Kinniburgh gave Motherwell a point.

Dunfermline saw their recent run of good form ripped apart by a rampant Partick Thistle at Firhill.

John Lambie's men romped to a four-goal victory as Alex Burns clinched a brace and Gerry Britton and Scott McLean grabbed a goal apiece.

Second-half goals from Stevie Fulton and substitute Kris Boyd gave Kilmarnock a valuable 2-0 win in a tough but uninspiring encounter against a disappointing Dundee.

The ex-Jambo midfielder struck first with a moment of class in the 56th minute when he unleashed a tremendous 20-yard shot which had Dens keeper Julian Speroni grasping at thin air.

And in injury time Boyd wrapped up the points with a low drive from the edge of the box.

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Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 Rangers	19	16	3	0	59	15	51
2 Celtic	19	16	1	2	54	12	49
3 Dunfermline	19	9	3	7	34	38	30
4 Hearts	19	7	6	6	28	32	27
5 Hibernian	19	8	2	9	26	28	26
6 Kilmarnock	19	7	4	8	19	31	25
7 Dundee	19	6	6	7	24	29	24
8 Partick	19	5	6	8	21	31	21
9 Aberdeen	19	4	7	8	18	31	19
10 Livingston	19	4	4	11	26	32	16
11 Dundee United	19	3	6	10	18	35	15
12 Motherwell	19	3	4	12	24	37	13

## French Ligue 1

**L**igue 1 leaders Nice crashed out of the Coupe de la Ligue on Saturday night as second division Creteil scored a shock win. Journeyman striker Sebastien Dallet scored the only goal of the game in the 70th minute to take Creteil into the last 16 of the competition.

The 29-year-old has plenty of cup experience having reached the semi-finals of this competition twice while at Sochaux. He was also in a Lens team which made it through to the Coupe de France last four, but is in his third year at Creteil.

Nice fielded a strong team, taking the away match seriously, but captain Dallet led Creteil superbly from the front, while former France international Patrick Blondeau was a rock at the back.

Pauleta came off the bench to get the winner as Bordeaux were 2-1 victors at Montpellier, with he and Savio scoring late in the game after Marc-Eric Geui had given the home side an early lead.

Matt Moussilou netted twice as Lille won 2-1 and avoided an upset at Istres, but there were plenty more shocks.

Penalty shoot-outs accounted for Lens, Rennes and Sedan - all beaten by lower-league outfits.

Lens drew 3-3 at second division Beauvais but then lost 3-1 on penalties, while Rennes were beaten 5-4 on spot-kicks after a 1-1 draw at Gueugnon.

Sedan were held 1-1 at third division Nimes and then exited after a 4-2 defeat on penalties at the impressive Stade des Costieres.

In another all-Ligue 1 clash, Marseille marched on with a 5-1 drubbing of Troyes, with Ibrahima Bakayoko netting a hat-trick.

Lyon overcome fellow top-flight outfit Bastia 2-0, with Peguy Luyindula getting both goals, and Sochaux beat Ajaccio 3-0 in a surprisingly one-sided encounter.

Guingamp were 1-0 winners at home to Strasbourg in the night's remaining match featuring only Ligue 1 sides.

Metz, of Ligue 2, beat third division Martigues 1-0, while Le Mans got the better of Grenoble by the same score in a match-up of two second tier sides.



PSG head coach Luis Fernandez.

## Coupe De La Ligue

**Beauvais \* 3 - 3 Lens (Beauvais won on penalties), Creteil 1 - 0 Nice, Gueugnon 1 - 1 Rennes, Guingamp 1 - 0 Strasbourg, Istres 1 - 2 Lille, Le Mans 1 - 0 Grenoble, Martigues 0 - 1 Metz, Montpellier 1 - 2 Bordeaux, Nimes \* 1 - 1 Sedan (Nimes won on penalties), Sochaux 3 - 0 Ajaccio, Marseille 5 - 1 Troyes, Lyon 2 - 0 Bastia, Monaco 1 - 0 Auxerre, Saint-Etienne 1 - 0 Le Havre (AET).**

## Alain's Corner



Alain Barataud

## Anelka - Rebel Without a Blue

**E**ric Cantona is notorious for his wicked rebellious nature more so than other reasons and now France has claimed another rebel in the name of Nicolas Anelka, a pure product of the French nursery of Clairefontaine in Paris.

Anelka is the latest mutineer of French Football after refusing to play for France two weeks ago against Yugoslavia. A star at the age of sixteen after scoring with Paris against Lens in his first game as a professional, he made headlines when he refused to play for Paris defecting instead to Premier League team, Arsenal with coach Arsene Wenger. At Arsenal, Anelka won the double in 1998 but missed out on representing France in the World Cup when Aime Jacquet opted for Thierry Henry, Anelka's best friend, who was having similar success.

This marked his first disappointment though the saga had just begun.

Anelka then rejected Arsenal for the prestigious Real Madrid. He won the Champions League with Real and the Euro 2000 with France the same year but had problems in Spain for some unexplained reason. He later admitted that he regretted his attitude in Madrid.

When Anelka returned to Paris, he was in trouble again with coach Luis Fernandez, the man who gave him the chance to play his first game as a professional and promptly left Paris for Liverpool. Anelka did well but missed for the second time in a row the World Cup in Korea/Japan.

In the end, Gerard Houllier let Anelka sign for Manchester City where Anelka is shining, scoring goals reminiscent of the time he played for the Gunners.

Anelka is back on top and proving to be one of the world's top strikers, though Jacques Santini doesn't seem to think so, allocating him only to sixth spot on his list of choices for strikers in the French national team, which has ruffled the feathers of Anelka and therefore has him now snubbing the team.

Anelka remarked that he would love to play for his country again, but not as a last resort. He feels he deserves to play and Santini should have more confidence in him because not only is he a top striker - better than the young Govou or Moreira for sure - but he has the support of most players in the team as well.

Santini expects respect from his players and even though we can all understand Anelka's frustration, he made a huge mistake in speaking to the media about his feelings before talking it over with the coach, blowing his chances to play for Les Bleues at least for the time being. Bad luck all round for him and his supporters and we hope that he continues to excel and one day in the future see him don the blue jersey.

In other news, the French League has a new leader again with Nice snatching first place from Lyon and only two points behind Lyon rest comfortably Guingamp, Marseille and Auxerre. League One has never been so close after eighteen rounds.

This weekend in the League Cup saw four big surprises: Creteil, Gueugnon, Nimes and Beauvais from League Two beat Nice, Rennes, Sedan and Lens. Marseille thrashing Troyes by winning five-one and last year's Cup winner, Bordeaux with thanks to their Portuguese star Pauleta who scored the winning goal, came up trumps in Montpellier two-one.

On the eve of the awards for European Best Player of the Year, the win in Tokyo at the Intercontinental Cup with Real Madrid, looks set to put Ronaldo, Raul, Roberto Carlos and Zidane as big favourites ahead of Thierry Henry and Michael Ballack, though the great legend of Real Madrid, Alfredo Di Stefano, has given his vote to Thierry Henry.

We'll know for sure who will be the one in ten days time - see you next week.





# NATIONAL LEAGUE ACTION BETWEEN PARRAMATTA POWER AND SYDNEY UNITED

